Manitoba Conservation

Annual Report
2003-2004

Manitoba

Conservation Manitoba

Rapport annuel
2003-2004

Manitoba

105-00635/

MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

The Honourable John Harvard
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
Government House
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Your Honour:

I am please to present to you the fifth Annual Report of the Manitoba Department of Conservation for the year ending March 31, 2004.

Manitoba Conservation continued to focus its efforts on natural resource and environmental management and protection measures and diligently fulfilled its mandate in these areas. Staff from the Department are committed to providing effective and efficient program and service delivery to all Manitobans.

It should be noted there was a significant change in both the Department's mandate and structure during the fiscal year as a result of the formation of the new Water Stewardship Department.

This annual report provides detailed information on the many important activities that are carried out on a yearly basis by the Department around the province.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Struthers

Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation

Manitoba

Deputy Minister of
Conservation

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

The Honourable Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation
330 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

It is my pleasure to submit to you the 2003/04 Annual Report of Manitoba Conservation.

This past year has seen the Department continue to emphasize sustainability and conservation of Manitoba's environment and natural resources through the programs and services that it provides. Manitoba Conservation is committed to the delivery of these programs and services in an efficient and effective manner. Highlighted below are some of the activities undertaken by the Department during the past year:

- Converting South Atikaki and Criddle/Vane Homestead Park reserves to permanent provincial parks and extending Amisk Park reserve for a further five years.
- Emphasizing wildlife management through an expanded Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance program and field implementation of the Bovine TB eradication strategy.
- New legislation related to resource tourism operations and the safeguarding of natural resources.
- Significant wildfire control activities to deal with a total of 1148 forest fires, the second highest number on record.

Enclosed please find detailed information on the Department's operations for the 2003/04 fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Potter
Deputy Minister

Contents

List of Tables 2
List of Figures 3
Highlights 6
Points saillants 11
- Sustainable Development Integration 15
- Government-wide Implementation of Sustainable Development 23

Introduction 23
Administration and Finance 25
- Minister's Salary 25
- Executive Support 25
- Corporate Services 25
- Financial Services 27
- Human Resource Services 28
- Information Technology Services 29

Conservation Support Services 31
- Computer Graphics 31
- Survey Services 32
- Distribution Centre 34

Regional Operations 35
- Headquarters Operations 35
- Northwest Region 47
- Northeast Region 49
- Interlake Region 52
- Eastern Region 55
- Western Region 57
- Red River Region 60
- Fire Program 63

Conservation Programs 67
- Divisional Administration 67
- Parks and Natural Areas 68
- Commercial Operations 72
- Air Quality 76
- Forestry 78
- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection 86
- Pollution Prevention 116
- Lands 128

Habitat Enhancement Fund 136
Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund 137
Environmental Stewardship 138
- Divisional Administration 138
- Sustainable Resource Management 139
- Environmental Assessment and Licensing 146
- Aboriginal Relations 151

Clean Environment Commission 153
International Institute for Sustainable Development 154
Infrastructure and Minor Capital Projects 155
Amortization of Capital Assets 156
Revenue and Expenditure Summaries 157
Legislation 167

List of Tables

AF.1 Expenditure, Minister's Salary 25
AF.2 Expenditure, Executive Support 25
AF.3 Expenditure, Corporate Services 26
AF.4 Expenditure, Financial Services 28
AF.5 Employment Equity Representation 29
AF.6 Expenditure, Human Resource Services 29
AF.7 Expenditure, Information Technology Services 30

CS.1 Expenditure, Computer Graphics 32
CS.2 Expenditure, Survey Services 34
CS.3 Distribution Centre 34

RO.1 Livestock Regulation Enforcement 1994-95 to 2003-04 36
RO.2 Environmental Accidents 38
RO.3 Environmental Sector Enforcement 39
RO.4 Enforcement, by Act/Regulation 40
RO.5 Common Violations under ***The Provincial Parks Act*** 41
RO.6 Common Violations under ***The Wildlife Act*** 41
RO.7 Common Violations under ***Fisheries Act (Canada)*** and ***The Fisheries Act*** (Manitoba) 42
RO.8 Comparison of Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks and Migratory Birds Prosecutions 1993-94 to 2003-04 42
RO.9 Record of Violations Occurring 2003-04 42
RO.10 Hunter and Firearm Safety Program 1992-2003 43
RO.11 Firearm Accidents 1964-2003, 5-year Averages 43
RO.12 Firearm Accidents 1992-2003 44
RO.13 Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation 1993-94 to 2003-04 44
RO.14 Problem Wildlife Occurrences 45
RO.15 T.I.P. Calls by Region 45
RO.16 T.I.P. Calls by Year, 1995-96 to 2003-04 46
RO.17 Expenditure, Headquarters Operations 46
RO.18 Expenditure, Northwest Region 48
RO.19 Expenditure, Northeast Region 51
RO.20 Timber Harvest, Interlake Region 53
RO.21 Forest Renewal, Interlake Region 53
RO.22 Expenditure, Interlake Region 54
RO.23 Expenditure, Eastern Region 56
RO.24 Expenditure, Western Region 59
RO.25 Expenditure, Red River Region 62
RO.26 Expenditure, Fire Program 64
RO.27 Number of Fires and Area Burned by Region and Cause 64
RO.28 Number of Fires and Area Burned by Priority Zone and Action Status 65

CP.1 Expenditure, Divisional Administration 67

PA.1 Expenditure, Administration 68
PA.2 Expenditure, Planning and Development 72
PA.3 Expenditure, Park Districts 73
PA.4 Expenditure, Park Operations and Maintenance 73
PA.5 Expenditure, Support Services 75

AQ.1 Air Quality Activities 76
AQ.2 Expenditure, Air Quality Management 77

FO.1 Expenditure, Administration 78
FO.2 Expenditure, Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis 80
FO.3 Forest Renewal Activities 82
FO.4 Expenditure, Forest Health and Renewal 82
FO.5 Expenditure, Forest Management and Development 84
FO.6 Expenditure, Forest Regeneration Stock 85

WI.1 Wildlife Permits Issued, 2003 88
WI.2 Expenditure, Administration 89
WI.3 Resident Hunter Big Game Harvest 95
WI.4 Expenditure, Game and Fur Management 98
WI.5 Fur Statistics, Year ending 31 August, 2003 98
WI.6 Trappers and Value of Wild Fur Production 1993-94 to 2002-03 99
WI.7 Hunting Licences Sold 100
WI.8 Hunting Licence Sales and Revenue 1994-95 To 2003-04 101
WI.9 Wildlife Licence Revenue 101
WI.10 Expenditure, Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring 106
WI.11 Status of the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre's Biodiversity Information Database 109
WI.12 Expenditure, Biodiversity Conservation 113
WI.13 Expenditure, *Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement* 114
WI.14 Expenditure, Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative 115

P2.1 Material Recovery Rates 2002 118
P2.2 Product from MB Scrap Tires in 2003/04 119
P2.3 Manitoba Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program 120
P2.4 SDIF Open Category Funding 124
P2.5 Funding requests and approvals by Priority Area 125
P2.6 WRAPP Fund 126
P2.7 EYC Summary 127
P2.8 Expenditure, Pollution Prevention 128

LA.1 Treaty Land Entitlement Status 130
LA.2 Expenditure, Crown Lands Operations 131
LA.3 Expenditure, Crown Lands Registry 132
LA.4 Expenditure, Remote Sensing 134
LA.5 Expenditure, Land Mapping Services 135

HE.1 Expenditure, Habitat Enhancement Fund 136

SC.1 Expenditure, Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund 137

ES.1 Expenditure, Divisional Administration 138

SR.1 Expenditure, Sustainable Resource Management 145

EA.1 Environmental Approvals Activities 147
EA.2 Suspensions or Variations under ***The Environment Act*** 2003-2004 149
EA.3 Expenditure, Environmental Assessment and Licencing 150

AR.1 Expenditure, Aboriginal Relations 152
CE.1 Expenditure, Clean Environment Commission 153

IISD.1 Expenditure, International Institute for Sustainable Development 154

IM.1 Expenditure, Equipment 155
IM.2 Expenditure, Park Facilities 155

ACA.1 Expenditure, Amortization and Other Costs Related to Capital Assets 156

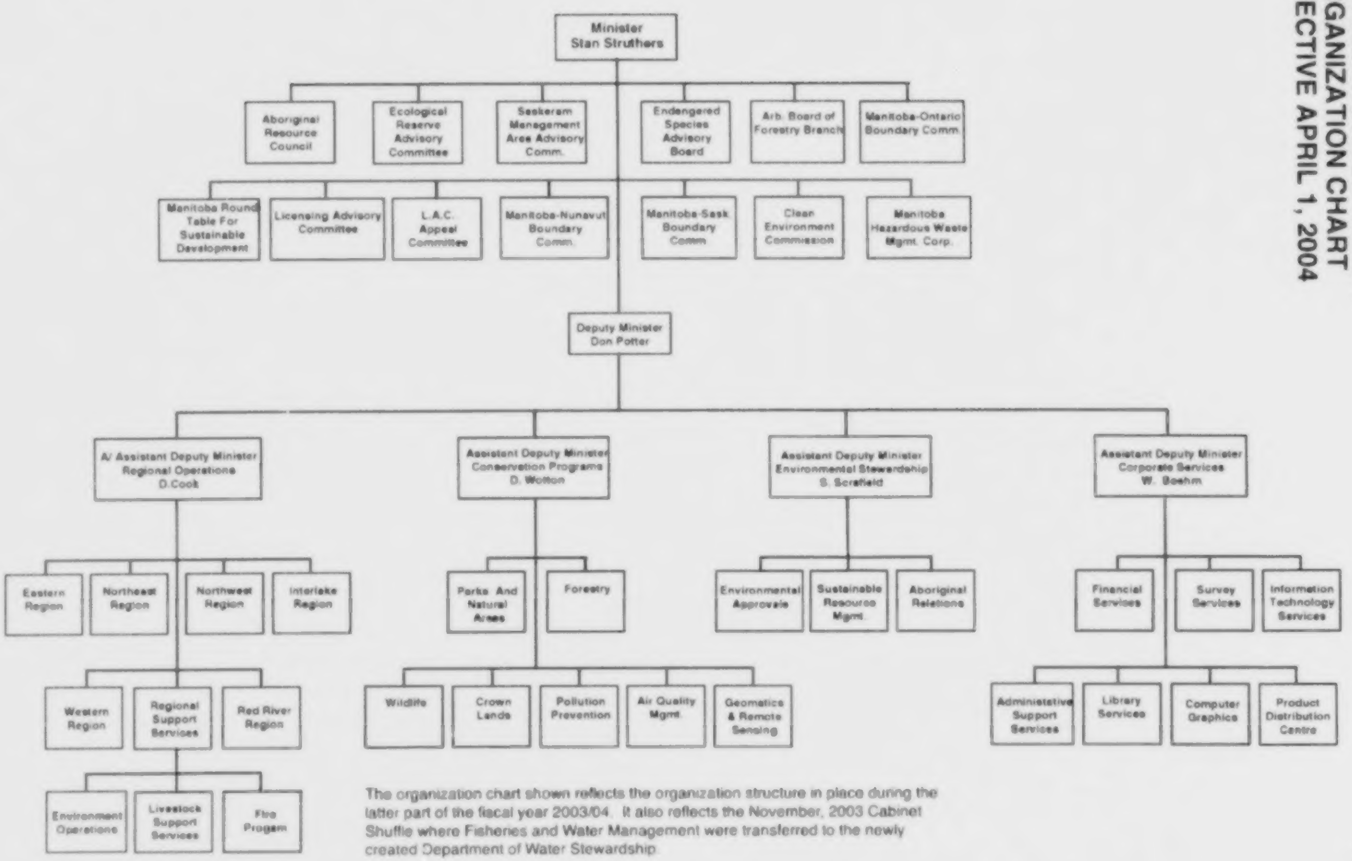
RE.1 Reconciliation Statement 157
RE.2 Revenue Summary by Source 157
RE.3 Expenditure Summary 159
RE.4 Five-Year Expenditure and Staffing Summary by Appropriation 164

List of Figures

1. Organization Chart 4
2. Organigramme 4
3. Number of Fires, 1994-2003 66
4. Area Burned, 1994-2003 66
5. Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas 71
6. Game Hunting Areas 91

MANITOBA CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION CHART
EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2004

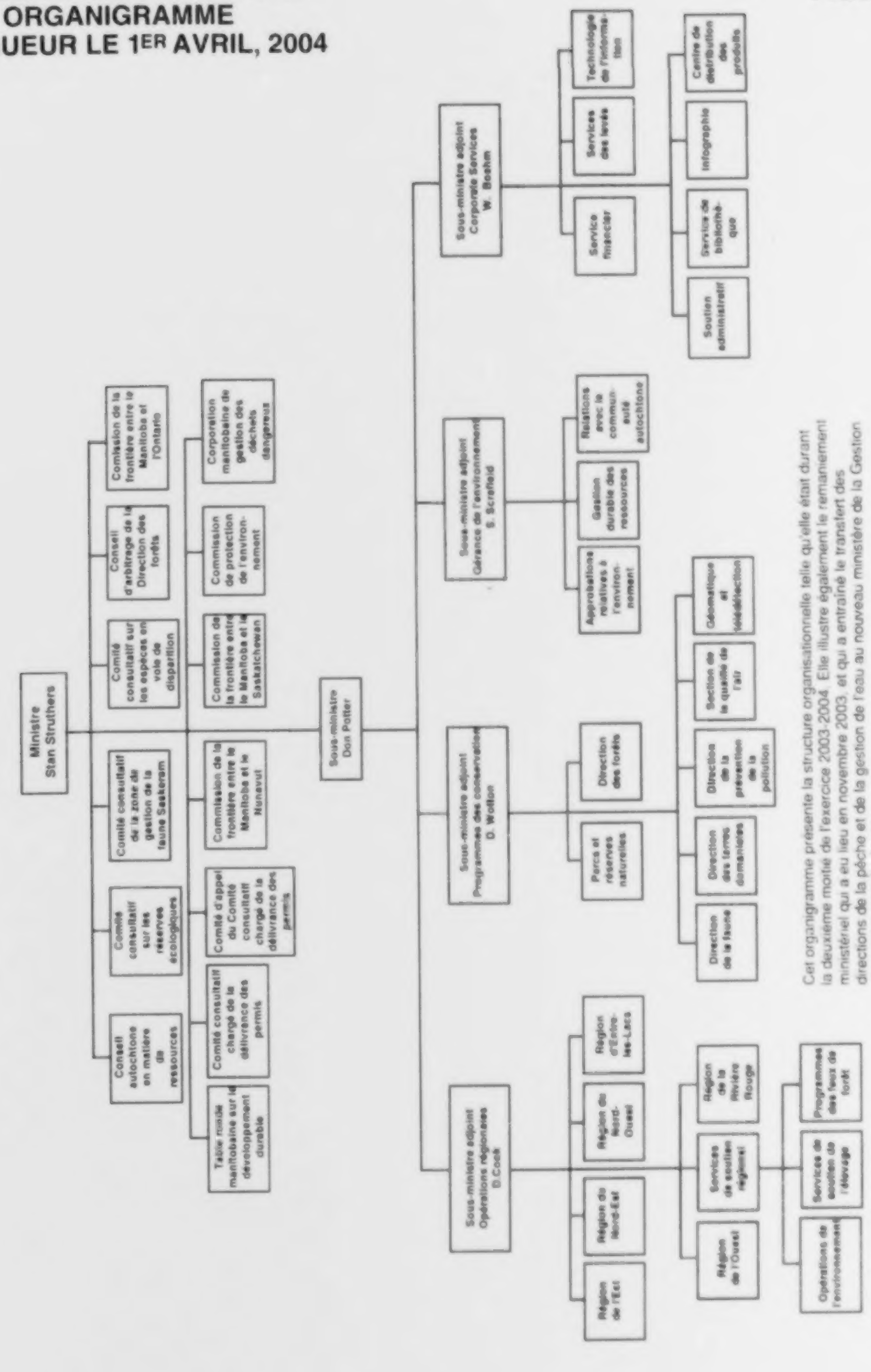
FIGURE 1


Minister
Stan Struthers
Aboriginal Resource Council
Ecological Reserve Advisory Committee
Saskeram Management Area Advisory Comm.
Endangered Species Advisory Board
Arb. Board of Forestry Branch
Manitoba-Ontario Boundary Comm.
Manitoba Round Table For Sustainable Development
Licensing Advisory Committee
L.A.C. Appeal Committee
Manitoba-Nunavut Boundary Comm.
Manitoba-Sask Boundary Comm
Clean Environment Commission
Manitoba Hazardous Waste Mgmt. Corp.
Deputy Minister
Don Potter
A/ Assistant Deputy Minister
Regional Operations
D.Cook
Eastern Region
Northeast Region
Northwest Region
Interlake Region
Western Region
Regional Support Services
Red River Region
Environment Operations
Livestock Support Services
Fire Progam
Assistant Deputy Minister
Conservation Programs
D. Wotton
Parks And Natural Areas
Forestry
Wildlife
Crown Lands
Pollution Prevention
Air Quality Mgmt.
Geomatics & Remote Sensing
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship
S. Scrafield
Environmental Approvals
Sustainable Resource Mgmt.
Aboriginal Relations
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Services
W. Boehm
Financial Services
Survey Services
Information Technology Services
Administrative Support Services
Library Services
Computer Graphics
Product Distribution Centre

The organization chart shown reflects the organization structure in place during the latter part of the fiscal year 2003/04. It also reflects the November, 2003 Cabinet Shuffle where Fisheries and Water Management were transferred to the newly created Department of Water Stewardship.

CONSERVATION MANITOBA
ORGANIGRAMME
EN VIGUEUR LE 1ER AVRIL, 2004

FIGURE 1


Ministre
Stan Struthers
Conseil autochtone en matière de ressources
Comité consultatif sur les réserves écologiques
Comité consultatif de la zone de gestion de la faune Saskeram
Comité consultatif sur les espèces en voie de disparition
Conseil d'arbitrage de la Direction des forêts
Comission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et l'Ontario
Table ronde manitobaine sur le développement durable
Comité consultatif chargé de la délivrance des permis
Comité d'appel du Comité consultatif chargé de la délivrance des permis
Commission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et le Nunavut
Commission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et la Saskatchewan
Commission de protection de l'environnement
Corporation manitobaine de gestion des déchets dangereux
Sous-ministre
Don Potter
Sous-ministre adjoint
Opérations régionales
D.Cook
Région de l'Est
Région du Nord-Est
Région du Nord-Ouest
Région d'Entre-les-Lacs
Région de l'Ouest
Services de soutien régional
Région de la Rivière Rouge
Opérations de l'environnement
Services de soutien de l'élevage
Programmes des feux de forêt
Sous-ministre adjoint
Programmes des conservation
D. Wotton
Parcs et réserves naturelles
Direction des forêts
Direction de la faune
Direction des terres domaniales
Direction de la prévention de la pollution
Section de la qualité de l'air
Géomatique et télédétection
Sous-ministre adjoint
Gérance de l'environnement
S. Scrafield
Approbations relatives à l'environnement
Gestion durable des ressources
Relations avec la communauté autochtone
Sous-ministre adjoint
Corporate Services
W. Boehm
Service financier
Services des levés
Technologie de l'information
Soutien administratif
Service de bibliothèque
Infographie
Centre de distribution des produits

Cet organigramme présente la structure organisationnelle telle qu'elle était durant la deuxième moitié de l'exercice 2003-2004. Elle illustre également le remaniement ministériel qui a eu lieu en novembre 2003, et qui a entraîné le transfert des directions de la pêche et de la gestion de l'eau au nouveau ministère de la Gestion des ressources hydriques.

Highlights

Information Technology

The ITS Branch is working with the Licensing Section and Energy, Science, and Technology in the development of an e-commerce solution to provide web based sales of various licence and permit offerings over the internet for the general public

The Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) data warehouse is now fully operational and available online to the general public via the Intranet. This repository contains all government geospatial GIS data and related databases and meta-data, with interactive mapping tools. The data warehouse now has over 3,500 registered users.

Regional Operations

Audits were completed for 54 of the 360 manure management plans (15%) registered for the 2003 crop year. Charges were laid against some operators for excessive rates of manure application as well as against some operators who failed to register manure management plans.

The implementation of licensing Petroleum Technicians began December 29, 2003. Only Licensed Petroleum Technicians may construct, alter, remove or perform certain tests on petroleum storage facilities. Prospective Technicians must meet specific criteria which includes both a course of study and field experience. The applications are reviewed by an Advisory Committee established by the Minister of Conservation and recommendations are made to the Director regarding which applicants should receive a Licence. Currently there are 104 licensed Petroleum Technicians in Manitoba.

The *Onsite Wastewater Management System Regulation* was passed on April 28, 2003. The regulation was fully implemented on October 28, 2003 and the corresponding fees from the *Environment Act Fees Regulation* also came into effect on that day. The Regulation forms an integral part of Manitoba's Water Strategy Initiative.

Conservation detector dog "Jake", a Belgian Malanois, performed very well in his first full year, being used in 178 instances during the year. Jake worked on a variety of tasks including: assisting with roadside check stations, searching for evidence involving instances of illegal fishing and hunting, tracking individuals who fled from officers and assisting other agencies with such things as searching for lost persons. Continued public education programs were conducted in schools and public meetings.

The Winnipeg Folk Festival at Birds Hill Provincial Park drew over 40,000 patrons in 2003. Grand Beach had an estimated 175,000 vehicles enter the park, a 32% increase from the previous year. Birds Hill also had an increase in vehicle traffic, approximately 274,000, up 18%.

The Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee completed a new video entitled "Shadows of the Forest - Managing Woodland Caribou". The video has been widely distributed, along with the committee's inaugural issue of their new newsletter, entitled "Atik News". Monitoring of GPS and VHF-equipped caribou continued and a winter track survey was carried out. Elders and students from the community of Bloodvein participated in a project that was designed to learn about the community's traditional ecological knowledge of woodland caribou.

Expanded Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance of the white-tailed deer population was conducted in the extreme west and border area adjacent to North Dakota and Minnesota. 650 deer heads were collected from hunters at checkstations in Roblin, Russell, Birtle, Virden, Melita, Killarney, Boissevain and Manitou with no positive samples.

Regional staff continued to deliver the field implementation of a Bovine TB eradication strategy developed by the TB Task group, comprised of Parks Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Manitoba Agriculture and Food and Manitoba Conservation. This initiative has included a barrier fencing program (57 fences were installed using aboriginal contractors), expanded hunting seasons, enhanced "no baiting" regulations and increased sampling of elk and white-tailed deer in the Riding Mountain TB eradication zone. Western Region staff collected 226 deer samples from the periphery of Riding Mountain National Park.

Regional staff delivered the annual Polar Bear Alert Program at Churchill. The Program handled 176 animals and there were 347 occurrences of bears recorded in the Program area. No serious human/bear conflicts occurred. The high numbers of animals handled and occurrences recorded were primarily the result of a longer "problem season", and continues a trend seen in recent years. Between 1983 and 1995 the average number of bears captured and occurrences recorded per year was 46.2 and 114.5; between 1996 and 2003 the average has been 113.8 and 199.2 respectively.

Manitoba experienced the second highest number of fires on record in 2003. A total 1214 fires burned 918,844 hectares, well above the long-term average of 544. The spring began with earlier than normal fire activity due to low snowfall conditions and a lack of spring rains. Serious fire activity occurred throughout the province from April to September.

Northeast Region had a total of 658 fires burning an estimated 846,947 hectares of forested land. Lightening was the cause of 377 fires and 281 fires were the result of human activity. Suppression action was taken on 499 fires. The first fire was reported on May 11 and the last September 15; during this 127-day stretch there were only 17 days when a new fire was not recorded. Persistently high fire danger values and new fire starts across the Region required the Region to maintain above normal preparedness levels (manpower and aircraft) for extended periods. Suppression efforts were assisted through the import of additional fire crews from Ontario and British Colombia and air tanker support from Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and Northwest Territories. The additional personnel and air support enabled the Region to maintain a high level of initial attack capability allowing most fires to be brought under control at a small size. Suppression action was focused on higher priority areas resulting in a number of fires in unoccupied territory and areas of limited forestry values not being actioned; these fires accounted for 84% of the areas burned. The most significant fire was located approximately 20 kilometers north of Thompson, which at its peak was being worked by 400 firefighters and support personnel and 10 helicopters. This fire began in July and burned well into the fall with a final size of approximately 45,000 hectares.

Parks and Natural Areas

Conducted public involvement activities on the following:

- Converting South Atikaki and Criddle/Vane Homestead Park reserves into permanent provincial parks.
- Extending Amisk Park reserve for a further five years.
- Submitting the regulation to designate Little George Island Ecological Reserve for Cabinet approval.
- Obtaining support from Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation to establish an ecological reserve near their reserve.
- Concluding discussions and consultations on establishing a protected area in the Bell and Steeprock Canyons of the Porcupine Provincial Forest and forwarding the proposal for Cabinet approval.
- Consultations on the Hayes Heritage River
- Consultations on the Duck Mountain Provincial Park management plan

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

- Youth Hunting Licence Package sales for deer and upland game birds increased to over 3,500.
- Normal winter conditions in most areas; winter mortality was average on some deer ranges.
- Sunday hunting for big game was expanded to 24 additional Game Hunting areas.
- The introduction of a new Wild Turkey Licence will help to mentor and recruit young hunters.
- Deer populations continue to increase in many areas of the province and may support the reintroduction of the Second Deer Licence in 2004-05.
- Populations of barren-ground caribou are stable or increasing; coastal herds are stable.
- Monitoring Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in wild ungulates in Riding Mountain area continued for the sixth year.

- The Canada – Manitoba Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program assisted farmers in protecting vulnerable crops from waterfowl feeding damage. Two bait stations, eight Crown land lure crops and 23 scare equipment depots were strategically located and operated throughout the province in 2003.
- A survey of over 850 regional wildlife biologists, wildlife enforcement officers and agricultural specialists employed by government agencies in each province and territory of Canada and in each American state adjacent to the Canada – U.S.A. border was conducted as part of a co-operative effort by Manitoba Conservation, Kansas State University and Saskatchewan Environment to determine the number, distribution, status and management of feral pigs in Canada and the northern tier of states.
- The Problem Beaver Winter Subsidy Program was implemented for the third year by adding the Winter Beaver Subsidy Program to the existing program.
- The Department entered into an agreement with the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA) to deliver a Predator Control Program in chronic problem areas.
- Over 200 graduates completed the Mandatory Trapper Education Course.
- The Problem Black Bear Policy and Procedure directives were developed and approved by the Minister.
- The Urban Goose Working Group continues to investigate issues with geese in and around Winnipeg, with emphasis on airport safety. A management plan is being drafted by the group.
- A representative of the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre was invited to present a summary of CDC activities to NatureServe Board of Directors in Arlington, Virginia – the first time a Canadian CDC has been invited to do so.
- Fieldwork was conducted at more than 75 sites to search for locations of more than 30 provincially rare plants, including Endangered Small White Lady's-slipper and Western Prairie Fringed Orchid and Threatened Western Silvery Aster. These surveys, in conjunction with changes in methodology, led to roughly 500 new or updated records in the CDC database.
- Partnerships continued with Nature Conservancy Canada to develop a Conservation Blueprint for the Aspen Parkland region of western Manitoba, and a Site Conservation Plan in the Tallgrass Aspen Parkland in southeastern Manitoba.
- The Manitoba volunteer-based Dragonfly Survey contributed to the first national assessment of dragonflies of Canada.
- The Conservation Data Centre's computer biodiversity database (with over 4,000 mapped priority species occurrences) was upgraded to a newer version of Biotics®. This will result in more accurate mapping of species locations for conservation planning, especially for Species at Risk.
- Over 260 owls were detected by 162 volunteers who completed 107 survey routes for the 2003 Manitoba Nocturnal Owl Survey. The survey results can be viewed at (www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/involved/pdf/owl_survey_2003.pdf)
- Species at Risk recovery efforts focused on the eastern loggerhead shrike, piping plover, peregrine falcon, and least bittern.
- Manitoba presented a summary of the Polar Bear Protection Act and regulations at an international conference on polar bear husbandry hosted by Polar Bears International and The American Zoo and Aquarium Association. The Department was awarded Polar Bear International's Excellence in Leadership Award for 2004 for Manitoba's leadership in this area.
- The provincially rare calico crayfish was located at 16 of 72 locations examined. It was previously known from only four locations in Manitoba. Aquatic invertebrate inventories contributed data to provincial and national status assessments.
- A wood bison habitat use assessment was done at Chitek Lake, which was funded in part by the federal Habitat Stewardship Program.
- Monitoring of soil and vegetation continued at permanent monitoring sites near Flin Flon to assess the long-term effects of emissions from the HBM&S smelter on the boreal forest ecosystems.
- Monitoring continued of an acid mine drainage site near Flin Flon to study revegetation under different mitigation treatments.
- Monitoring forest sites treated with Round-up herbicide continued, to determine long-term effects on plant biodiversity.
- Monitoring of surface water pools in Gull Lake Bog continued, to determine the impact of hydrological changes on vegetation.
- Reports were drafted on the *Flin Flon Garden Study* and *Fate of Metals in Thompson Soils.*

- Co-operative Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and Manitoba Conservation Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk projects accessed a total of $642.9 for projects to identify and secure significant Manitoba habitats.
- Vegetation inventory was carried out and the quality of the prairie was graded on 113 quarter sections (9,077 acres) of mixed-grass prairie.
- The Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Project provided incentives to six landowners to set up the twice-over system on 2,272 acres of mixed-grass prairie pastures. This protected species at risk such as hairy prairie clover, Sprague's pipit and buffalo grass.
- Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve - 23,530 flowering stems of western prairie fringed orchids were counted in 2003, which was the highest ever.
- A purple orchid similar to the western prairie fringed orchid was found for the first time in 2003. Taxonomic work is underway to identify the species.
- Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Program - additional land was added to the Onanole WMA to replace WMA land that was released to accommodate a Treaty Land Entitlement request. A new entrance sign was installed at the Churchill WMA. Significant WMA and other wildlife lands were used for emergency grazing and haying.
- A new policy was developed for emergency agricultural use of wildlife lands.
- Delta Marsh - high-resolution colour infrared aerial photography was acquired for the entire marsh. It will be used to map vegetation assess changes since 1997.
- Provided support for Ducks Unlimited Canada's Western Boreal Forest Initiative's, Pasquia Project, re: the Pasquia Earth Cover Classification and inventories.
- The Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project raised and released approximately 18,600 beetles in Manitoba marshes in 2003 for biological control of purple loosestrife.

Sustainable Resource Management

- ***The Resource Tourism Operators Act*** took effect March 1, 2004, repealing and replacing provisions under ***The Tourism and Recreation Act***. The new Act was introduced to effectively manage resource tourism opportunities and control illegal operators and substandard facilities. It governs the provision of outfitting services in Manitoba, requiring all outfitters in the province to be licensed and to obtain permits to operate outfitting facilities.
- Five new regulations were registered during the reporting period:
  - The *Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation* introduced a mandatory certification program for water and wastewater facility operators. Although this regulation took effect in 2003, some of its provisions will be phased in gradually over an orderly, multi-year implementation period.
  - The *Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation*, which repeals and replaces the *Private Sewage Disposal Systems and Privies Regulation* and the *Sensitive Areas Regulation*, will improve sewage management in the province. Although most of the Regulation took effect in April 2003, registration and certification requirements were deferred until 2004 and 2005, respectively.
  - The *Special Waste (Shredder Residue) Regulation* provides a new disposal method for low-risk shredded residue of appliances, motor vehicles and other sources of recyclable steel with verifiably low concentrations of contaminants.
  - The *Sustainability Guidelines for Local Governments, School Divisions, Universities, Colleges and Regional Health Authorities Regulation* was passed after consultations with representatives of affected stakeholder organizations in the province's municipal, university, school and hospital sectors.
  - The *Resource Tourism Operators Regulation* took effect on the same date ***The Resource Tourism Operators Act*** was proclaimed. The new Regulation contains details of the licensing and permitting structure established by the Act.
- The Branch supported Manitoba's activities with relation to the federal Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) 1999, and helped coordinate Manitoba government discussions/activities with the Federal government including the Five-Year Parliamentary Review of the legislation.
- The Branch is leading an interdepartmental committee to establish a government position on Métis harvesting as a result of a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision. This includes participation in Federal/Provincial discussions.
- About 1,350 resource-based tourism licences and permits for hunting, fishing and ecotourism lodges, outcamps and outfitter services were issued.
- The Branch continued to coordinate implementation of The Sustainable Development Act requirements. During the reporting period development of a draft "Sustainability Evaluation Tool" was initiated to facilitate implementation of Code of Practice and Financial Management.

- The Branch continued to co-ordinate the East Side Planning Initiative and provide secretariat support to the East Side Round Table, which was commissioned by the Minister to develop a work plan, conduct public meetings and bring forward recommendations toward a sustainable land use plan for the study area. The Branch also provided secretariat support to the Round Table's two principal advisory bodies, the East Side First Nation Council and the East Side Advisory Committee.

Points saillants

Technologie de l'information

La Direction des technologies de l'information travaille avec la Section des permis ainsi qu'avec Énergie, Sciences et Technologie afin d'élaborer une solution de commerce électronique qui permettra d'offrir divers types de licences et de permis au grand public, sur Internet.

Le dépôt de données de l'Initiative des terres domaniales est maintenant entièrement opérationnel et est offert en ligne au grand public sur l'intranet. Le dépôt de données renferme toutes les données géospatiales SIG du gouvernement ainsi que les bases de données et métadonnées y afférentes, et des outils de mappage interactifs. Plus de 3 500 utilisateurs sont inscrits au dépôt de données.

Opérations régionales

On a terminé la vérification de 54 des 360 plans de gestion des déjections du bétail (15 %) inscrits durant la campagne agricole 2003. Des accusations ont été portées contre des exploitants qui ont épandu des quantités excessives de déjections, et contre d'autres qui ont omis d'inscrire leurs plans de gestion des déjections du bétail.

Le système de délivrance des permis de technicien pétrolier autorisé est entré en vigueur le 29 décembre 2003. Seuls les techniciens pétroliers autorisés peuvent construire, rénover ou enlever des systèmes de stockage, ou procéder à des essais sur de tels systèmes. Les futurs techniciens doivent répondre à certaines exigences, qui comprennent la réussite d'un cours et l'acquisition d'expérience sur le terrain. Les demandes sont examinées par un comité consultatif établi par le ministre de la Conservation. Le comité fait par la suite des recommandations au directeur en ce qui touche la délivrance de permis aux candidats. On trouve présentement 104 techniciens pétroliers autorisés au Manitoba.

Le *Règlement sur les systèmes de gestion autonomes d'eaux résiduaires* a été promulgué le 28 avril 2003. Le *Règlement* est entré entièrement en vigueur le 28 octobre 2003, et les droits exigibles que prévoit le *Règlement* sur *les droits* sont également entrés en vigueur à cette date. Le *Règlement* fait partie intégrante de la Stratégie manitobaine de gestion de l'eau.

Le chien détecteur de Conservation, un malinois prénommé *Jake*, s'est très bien débrouillé au cours de sa première année de service. Il a été utilisé à 178 reprises au cours de l'année. Jake a accompli diverses tâches; il a notamment œuvré dans des postes de contrôle routier, travaillé à la recherche de preuves dans des affaires de pêche et de chasse illégales, chassé des personnes en fuite et aidé d'autres organismes, entre autres, à chercher des personnes portées disparues. Des séances de sensibilisation continues ont eu lieu dans les écoles et dans le cadre d'assemblées publiques.

Le Winnipeg Folk Festival, qui s'est déroulé au Parc provincial de Birds Hill, a attiré plus de 40 000 personnes en 2003. En outre, Grand Beach a accueilli environ 175 000 véhicules, ce qui constitue une augmentation de 32 % par rapport à l'année précédente. Birds Hill a également accueilli un nombre accru de véhicules, soit environ 274 000, ce qui constitue une hausse de 18 %.

Le comité consultatif sur le caribou des forêts de l'Est du Manitoba a réalisé une nouvelle vidéo intitulée *Shadows of the Forest - Managing Woodland Caribou*. Cette vidéo a été distribuée à grande échelle, tout comme le numéro de lancement du nouveau bulletin du comité, intitulé *Atik News*. La surveillance des caribous munis de GPS VHF s'est poursuivie et une enquête de surveillance hivernale a été menée. Les aînés et les élèves de la communauté de Bloodvein ont participé à un projet communautaire qui avait pour but de favoriser l'acquisition de connaissances écologiques traditionnelles sur le caribou des forêts.

On a accru la surveillance de l'encéphalopathie des cervidés dans les populations de cerfs de Virginie vivant à l'extrême ouest de la province et près de la frontière avec le Dakota du Nord et le Minnesota. Un total de 650 têtes de cerfs ont été recueillies auprès de chasseurs aux postes d'accueil de Roblin, Russell, Birtle, Virden, Melita, Killarney, Boissevain et Manitou. Aucun des cerfs échantillonnés n'était atteint de l'encéphalopathie des cervidés.

Le personnel régional a continué d'assurer la mise en œuvre dans les régions d'une stratégie d'éradication de la tuberculose bovine (TB) élaborée par le groupe de travail sur la TB, dont font partie Parcs Canada, l'Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments, Agriculture et Alimentation Manitoba et Conservation Manitoba. Cette initiative comprenait l'installation de clôtures; en effet, 57 clôtures ont été installées par des entrepreneurs autochtones. Elle comprenait également la prolongation des saisons de chasse, l'amélioration des dispositions réglementaires interdisant l'amorçage et l'augmentation du nombre de wapitis et de cerfs de Virginie échantillonnés dans la région du parc national du Mont-Riding, qui a été désignée « zone d'éradication de la TB ». Le personnel de la Région de l'Ouest a échantillonné 226 cerfs aux abords du parc national du Mont-Riding.

On a assuré la prestation du programme annuel Alerte aux ours polaires à Churchill. Dans le cadre du programme, on a capturé 176 animaux, et 347 ours ont été aperçus dans la zone contrôlée. Aucun affrontement grave n'a été signalé entre un humain et un ours. Le nombre élevé d'ours capturés et aperçus était principalement attribuable au prolongement de la « saison problématique » que l'on a observé ces dernières années. Chaque année, entre 1983 et 1995, on a capturé en moyenne 46,2 ours et aperçu 114,5 ours. Toutefois, entre 1996 et 2002, ces moyennes s'élevaient respectivement à 113,8 et à 199,2 ours.

En 2003, au Manitoba, un total de 1 214 incendies ont dévasté 918 844 hectares de forêt, ce qui est largement supérieur à la moyenne à long terme de 544 incendies. On n'avait enregistré un nombre plus élevé d'incendies de forêts qu'à une seule reprise auparavant. Au printemps, on a observé des incendies plus tôt que d'habitude en raison du faible enneigement et des faibles précipitations printanières. Des incendies importants ont fait rage un peu partout dans la province d'avril à septembre.

Un total de 658 incendies ont dévasté approximativement 846 947 hectares de terrain forestier dans la Région du Nord-Ouest. 377 incendies sont attribuables à la foudre et 281, à l'activité humaine. On a tenté d'éteindre 499 de ces incendies. On a signalé le premier incendie le 11 mai et le dernier incendie le 15 septembre. Pendant cette période de 127 jours, il y a seulement 17 jours au cours desquels aucun incendie n'a été consigné. Le fait que les dangers d'incendie soient demeurés très élevés et que de nouveaux incendies se soient déclarés un peu partout dans la région exigeait que les autorités de la région maintiennent un niveau de préparation supérieur à la normale (main-d'œuvre et aéronefs) pour de longues périodes. Des équipes d'incendie de l'Ontario et de la Colombie-Britannique ont pris part aux efforts d'extinction des incendies, et des avions-citernes du Québec, de l'Ontario, de l'Alberta et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest se sont joints à ces efforts. La contribution des provinces a aidé les autorités de la région à maintenir une excellente capacité d'attaque initiale des incendies, ce qui leur a permis de maîtriser la plupart des incendies. Les efforts d'extinction des incendies se sont concentrés sur les régions prioritaires, ce qui fait qu'on n'a pas tenté de maîtriser bon nombre d'incendies qui ravageaient des territoires inoccupés et des régions moins importantes sur le plan forestier; 84 % de la forêt incendiée faisait partie de cette catégorie. Le plus important incendie a eu lieu à environ 20 km au nord de Thompson; lorsque le feu a atteint son paroxysme, 400 pompiers et membres du personnel auxiliaire tentaient de le maîtriser, et 10 hélicoptères avaient été affectés à ces efforts d'extinction. Cet incendie a commencé en juillet et s'est poursuivi jusqu'à la fin de l'automne. Il a dévasté environ 45 000 hectares de forêt.

Protection des espèces naturelles et de l'écosystème

- Les ventes de trousses de permis de chasse pour les jeunes, lesquelles comprennent des permis pour chasser le cerf et le gibier à plumes sédentaire, continuent à augmenter. On a déjà vendu plus de 3 500 trousses.
- On a enregistré un taux de mortalité moyen dans certaines aires de distribution des cerfs en raison des conditions hivernales normales dans la plupart des régions.
- La chasse au gros gibier est maintenant permise le dimanche dans 24 autres zones de chasse au gibier.
- L'entrée en vigueur d'un nouveau permis de chasse au dindon sauvage permettra de guider et de recruter de jeunes chasseurs.
- Les populations de cerfs continuent à s'accroître dans bon nombre de régions de la province et entraîneront peut-être la remise en vigueur du deuxième permis de chasse au cerf en 2004-2005.

- Les populations de caribous de la toundra sont stables ou à la hausse, tandis que celles des troupeaux côtiers sont stables.
- La surveillance de la tuberculose bovine (TB) chez les ongulés sauvages de la région du mont Riding s'est poursuivie pour la sixième année.
- Le Programme Canada–Manitoba de prévention des dommages causés aux récoltes par la sauvagine a permis d'aider les agriculteurs à protéger les récoltes vulnérables contre la sauvagine. Deux zones d'appât, huit zones de culture appât sur les terres domaniales et 23 dépôts de matériel d'effarouchement ont été établis de façon stratégique et exploités dans toute la province en 2003.
- Une enquête a été menée auprès de plus de 850 biologistes de la faune régionaux, agents d'exécution de la loi sur la faune et spécialistes de l'agriculture travaillant pour des organismes gouvernementaux dans chacune des provinces et chacun des territoires canadiens et dans chacun des états américains avoisinant la frontière canado-américaine. Cette enquête a été effectuée dans le cadre d'un effort de coopération entre Conservation Manitoba, la Kansas State University et Environnement Saskatchewan, qui visait à évaluer le nombre, la répartition, la situation et la gestion des cochons sauvages au Canada et dans le Nord des états américains.
- Le programme de subvention hivernale des castors, mis en œuvre pour la troisième année, s'ajoute au programme mis en œuvre précédemment.
- Le ministère a signé une entente avec la Manitoba Trappers Association afin que cette dernière mette en œuvre un programme de lutte contre les prédateurs dans les régions problématiques.
- Plus de 200 personnes ont réussi le cours obligatoire de trappeur et ont reçu leur diplôme.
- On a élaboré des directives en matière de politique et de procédure relatives aux ours noirs, et celles-ci ont été approuvées par le Ministre.
- Le Groupe de travail sur les bernaches en milieu urbain a continué d'enquêter sur les problèmes causés par les bernaches à Winnipeg et dans les environs, en mettant l'accent sur la sécurité aéroportuaire. Le groupe rédige présentement un plan de gestion.
- Un représentant du Centre de données sur la conservation du Manitoba a été invité à présenter une synthèse des activités du CDC au conseil d'administration de NatureServe à Arlington, en Virginie. Il s'agissait de la première fois qu'un représentant d'un CDC canadien était invité à faire une telle présentation.
- On a mené des enquêtes sur plus de 75 emplacements dans le but de trouver la localité de plus de 30 plantes rares, notamment les plantes menacées suivantes : cypripède blanc, platanthère blanchâtre et aster soyeux. Ces enquêtes, ainsi que les changements apportés à la méthodologie, ont permis de produire ou de mettre à jour plus ou moins 500 dossiers dans la base de données du CDC.
- En collaboration avec La Société canadienne pour la conservation de la nature, on a poursuivi l'élaboration d'un document provisoire portant sur la protection de la région des forêts-parcs à trembles de l'ouest du Manitoba et d'un plan de conservation des forêts-parcs à trembles et des prairies à herbes hautes du sud-est du Manitoba.
- Effectuée par des bénévoles, l'enquête sur les libellules a servi à élaborer la première évaluation nationale des libellules au Canada.
- La base de données informatisées sur la biodiversité du Centre de données sur la conservation du Manitoba (elle comprend plus de 4 000 occurrences d'espèces prioritaires reconnues) a adopté une nouvelle version de Biotics^{MD}. On pourra ainsi représenter plus adéquatement l'emplacement des espèces, en particulier des espèces en péril, aux fins de planification de la conservation.
- Plus de 260 hiboux ont été repérés par 162 bénévoles qui ont analysé 107 routes dans le cadre du projet manitobain de surveillance des hiboux de 2003. Les résultats de l'analyse sont affichés à l'adresse suivante (en anglais seulement) : (www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/involved/pdf/owl_survey_2003.pdf).
- Les projets visant le rétablissement des espèces en péril étaient axés sur les oiseaux suivants : pie-grièche migratrice de l'est, pluvier siffleur, faucon pèlerin et petit blongios.
- Le Manitoba a présenté une synthèse de la *Loi sur la protection des ours polaires* et de son règlement d'application dans le cadre d'une conférence internationale sur l'élevage des ours polaires organisée par Polar Bears International et la American Zoo and Aquarium Association. Le ministère s'est vu décerner le prix Excellence in Leadership Award 2004 de la Polar Bear International, qui soulignait ainsi le rôle de chef de file que joue le Manitoba dans ce domaine.
- L'écrevisse, qui est une espèce rare dans la province, a été repéré à 16 des 72 emplacements qui ont été examinés. Auparavant, on le trouvait seulement a quatre endroits au Manitoba. Les évaluations nationales et

provinciales de la situation de la biodiversité comprennent des données provenant des inventaires des invertébrés aquatiques.

- On a mené une évaluation sur l'habitat du bison des bois au lac Chitek; cette évaluation a été financée en partie par le Programme de conservation et de gérance de l'habitat du gouvernement du Canada.
- On a poursuivi la surveillance du sol et de la végétation aux stations de surveillance permanentes situées près de Flin Flon. On y a évalué les effets à long terme des émissions produites par la fonderie HBM&S sur les écosystèmes de la forêt boréale.
- On a poursuivi la surveillance du phénomène de drainage minier acide sur un site situé près de Flin Flon. On y a étudié la remise en végétation au moyen de divers traitements d'atténuation.
- On a poursuivi la surveillance de sites forestiers où l'on a utilisé l'herbicide Round-Up afin de déterminer les effets à long terme de ce produit sur la biodiversité végétale.
- On a poursuivi la surveillance des bassins d'eau de surface à Gull Lake Bog afin de déterminer l'impact des changements hydrologiques sur la végétation.
- On a préparé des rapports relativement aux études *Flin Flon Garden Study* et *Fate of Metals in Thompson Soils*.
- Les projets de la Société protectrice du patrimoine écologique du Manitoba et du programme de gestion de l'habitat des espèces en péril de Conservation Manitoba visant à repérer et à protéger des habitats importants au Manitoba ont reçu un total de 642 900 $.
- On a effectué un inventaire de la végétation et on a évalué la qualité de la prairie en fonction de 113 quarts de section (9 077 acres) de prairie mixte.
- Le projet de gestion du broutage de la prairie mixte a versé des primes d'encouragement à six propriétaires fonciers afin que ces derniers appliquent le système de pâturage à deux reprises sur 2 272 acres de prairie mixte, et ce, dans le but de protéger les espèces en péril, comme le pétalostemon pourpre, le pipit de Sprague et l'herbe aux bisons.
- Aire de conservation des hautes herbes des prairies du Manitoba : En 2003, on a dénombré 23 530 tiges florifères de platanthère blanchâtre; il s'agit du plus grand nombre jamais observé.
- En 2003, on a trouvé pour la première fois une orchidée pourpre semblable à la platanthère blanchâtre. Une étude taxonomique est en cours en vue d'identifier les espèces.
- Le programme de gestion de la faune comprenait l'ajout de terres à la zone de gestion de la faune d'Onanole, afin de remplacer la zone de gestion de la faune qui a été cédée dans le cadre d'une demande de droits fonciers issus de traités.
- On a installé une nouvelle enseigne annonçant la zone de gestion de la faune de Churchill.
- Une partie importante de la zone de gestion de la faune et d'autres terres sauvages a été utilisée en guise de pâturage et de prairie de fauche d'urgence.
- On a élaboré une nouvelle politique relative à l'utilisation des terres sauvages à des fins agricoles d'urgence.
- Marais Delta : Des photographies aériennes en couleurs à infrarouge de haute résolution de tout le marais ont été prises. Elles serviront à cartographier les modifications de la végétation depuis 1997.
- Une aide financière a été accordée à Canards Illimités Canada relativement à son Initiative sur les forêts boréales de l'Ouest (zone du projet Pasquia) portant sur la classification et l'inventaire de la couverture des terres de Pasquia.
- Le projet de lutte contre la salicaire au Manitoba a permis d'élever et de relâcher environ 18 600 coléoptères dans les marais du Manitoba en 2003 de manière à contrôler la propagation de la salicaire.

Sustainable Development Integration

Under *The Sustainable Development Act*, each department is required to integrate into its annual reporting process information about progress made in incorporating sustainable development into its activities. The section below provides examples of some of the activities the Department has undertaken to incorporate or apply the Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development into its everyday operations and activities.

Principles of Sustainable Development

Integration of Environmental (Social, Health) and Economic Decisions
To meet the intent of Principle # 1, the Department would need to ensure:
a) its economic decisions and activities adequately reflect environmental, human health and social effects; and
b) its environmental and health decisions, activities and initiatives adequately take into account economic, human health and social consequences.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation established a new Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU). The Unit reports to an interdepartmental management committee to promote a sustainable development approach to Manitoba's forests, with focus on diversification, Aboriginal participation and coordination between departments. The Unit worked to enhance forestry opportunities within the context of sustainable fibre usage and environmentally-responsible forest management practices. The SFU is developing a sustainable and diversified strategy for Manitoba's forests.
- For those provincial land use policies for which Manitoba Conservation is the lead department, the Sustainable Resource Management Branch continued coordination of their proposed revision. The approach is to revise the policies to reflect the recommendations of the COSDI report, integrate approved sustainable development land use related policies and integrate the principles of the provincial *Sustainable Development Code of Practice* and ***The Sustainable Development Act***.
- The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch accommodated local agricultural producers by providing access to Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and wildlife coded Crown lands for emergency hay and grazing due to drought and other adverse conditions in the cattle industry. A new interdepartmental emergency hay and grazing protocol / procedure was also developed.
- The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch provided technical environmental assessment input for development proposals such as environmental assessment reviews, land allocation, land entitlements, and sustainable development initiatives, so land use decision making would be based on sound ecological principles and all potential environmental and habitat effects are considered.
- The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch monitored conflicts between wildlife and humans in urban areas, and attempted to balance concerns for wildlife with concerns for human health and safety.
- The Lands Branch assessed all Crown land use applications with respect to appropriate type of tenure for the proposed use or occupation and compliance with sustainable development principles, policies, and legislation.

Stewardship
To meet the intent of Principle # 2, the Department would need to ensure:
a) its plans, policies and decisions ensure the economy, the environment, human health and social well being are managed for the equal benefit of present and future generations; and
b) its decisions are balanced with tomorrow's effects.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation required manure management plans to be prepared to ensure the sustainability of livestock production. The plans prescribe application of manure at rates that are agronomically and environmentally sound, thereby ensuring crop production is economically viable while protecting groundwater quality for future use.
- The provincial Protected Areas Initiative, whose goal it is to protect representative areas of Manitoba's natural regions for future generations, was re-profiled within the Department. The Initiative's staff worked cooperatively with all stakeholders, e.g., government branches and departments, local government, First Nations and the business sectors to identify and protect suitable candidate areas.

Shared Responsibility and Understanding

To meet the intent of Principle # 3, the Department would need to ensure:

a) it takes responsibility for sustaining the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being and be accountable for its decisions and actions in a spirit of partnership and open co-operation with all Manitobans;

b) its decisions and activities reflect Manitoba's shared common economic, physical and social environment;

c) it understands and respects differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations in its decision making and activities; and

d) it considers and reflects in its decisions and activities the aspirations, needs and views of the people of the various geographical and ethnic groups in Manitoba, including aboriginal peoples to facilitate equitable management of Manitoba's common resources.

Examples:

- Forestry staff worked with the Marcel Colomb First Nation, the Kinosao Sipi Development Corporation (Norway House First Nation), and Nelson House Forest Industries (Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation), and the Swampy Cree Tribal Council and Island Lake Tribal Council concerning timber harvesting opportunities.
- Manitoba Conservation finalized a draft agreement between Opaskwayak Cree Nation and the department for joint management of resources.
- Manitoba Conservation continued to develop partnerships with First Nations and stakeholders concerning Cumberland Delta Moose Management Committee and the Saskatchewan River Sturgeon Management Board, Cormorant Resource Management Board and the newly formed Cedar Lake Resource Management Board and the Rocky Creek (Reader-Root Eco-system) Water Management Committee.
- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch developed a Bear Management Plan in consultation with the Town of Snow Lake.
- Manitoba Conservation continued to participate in the Manitoba Model Forest, created in partnership with interested groups to support innovative sustainable forest management programs. The focus is to bring stakeholders and First Nation communities together to work towards a common understanding of ecosystem based processes and sustainable development.
- Under the Protected Areas Initiative, First Nations were given the opportunity to incorporate local and traditional knowledge into protected areas proposals. Manitoba Conservation continued to take protected area proposals to First Nation communities for consultations and to the mining and forestry sectors and other stakeholders.
- Manitoba Conservation continued development of co-management agreements with the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Manitoba Métis Federation and the West Region Tribal Council.
- The Aboriginal Relations Branch developed, in consultation with Elders, a draft policy for the Disposition of Birds of Prey and other Wildlife for Traditional Use by First Nation's People of Manitoba.
- The Sustainability Guidelines for Local Governments, School Divisions, Universities, Colleges and Regional Health Authorities Regulation was passed after consultations with representatives of affected stakeholder organizations in the province's municipal, university, school and hospital sectors.

Prevention

To meet the intent of Principle # 4, the Department would need to ensure:

a) its activities and decisions and legislation anticipate, and prevent or mitigate, significant adverse economic, environmental, human health and social effects, and

b) have particular careful regard to its decisions and actions whose impacts are not entirely certain but which, on reasonable and well-informed grounds, appear to pose serious threats to the economy, the environment, human health and social well being.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation's process and procedure for the permitting of construction, modification or expansion of manure storage facilities which require engineering design, technical review, inspection and certification, is designed to prevent significant adverse environmental and health impacts from development of livestock production operations.
- The *Onsite Wastewater Management System Regulation* was passed and fully implemented in 2003. This regulation helps to protect human health by preventing ground and surface water contamination resulting from wastewater systems, e.g., septic fields, injector systems. The associated program developed for the regulation included a registration system for the approximately 1700 new systems installed every year; a registration system for sewage haulers; a certification system for system installers; and information provided to municipal and governmental agencies on the regulation requirements. Environment Officers addressed the

construction and design criteria for each system through a review of System applications, site plans and soil assessments via percolation tests and sieve analysis.

- Manitoba Conservation regional staff continued to implement the Bovine TB eradication strategy developed jointly by Parks Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and Manitoba Conservation. Actions included installing 57 barrier fences, an expanded hunting season, enhanced "no baiting" regulations and increased sampling of elk and white-tailed deer in the eradication zone.
- Manitoba Conservation completed Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plans for all Red River Region parks.
- Manitoba Conservation undertook an aggressive initial wildfire attack response system to reduce/prevent the incidence of large fires in priority value areas which resulted in minimal loss of merchantable timber and minimal loss of recreational cabins and remote trapping cabins/structures.
- Manitoba Conservation continued its program of preventing the introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) a fatal neurological disease affecting elk, white-tailed deer and mule deer into Manitoba. The CWD surveillance program was continued which included collecting and testing hunter-harvested white-tailed deer and elk samples. Containment efforts in Saskatchewan and Alberta were monitored and initiatives were introduced to prevent the introduction of the disease, including a ban on possession and use of any substance containing materials from the deer family and restrictions on the importation of live and dead animals from the deer family from other jurisdictions.
- The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch published the document *Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba, A Reference Document*, to help in decision making respecting measures to prevent or mitigate disturbance and ecosystem impacts to secure the future of wildlife and its habitat.
- The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch directed the installation of 13 culverts with drift fences, to aid snakes in crossing the highway near the Narcisse snake dens. This has reduced snake mortality by about 75%.
- Manitoba Conservation continued its infrastructure improvement projects and initiatives with a focus this year on groundwater investigation equipment and park facilities upgrades and improvements.

Conservation and Enhancement

To meet the intent of Principle # 5, the Department would need to ensure:

a) its activities and decisions maintain the ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems of the environment;
b) that renewable natural resources are harvested on a sustainable yield basis;
c) that those persons who have been allocated provincial resources make wise and efficient use of them; and
d) its programs and activities enhance the long-term productive capability, quality and capacity of natural ecosystems.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation initiated a Piping Plover conservation project at a Riverton Sandy Bar, to help protect nesting sites for this rare and endangered species.
- Manitoba Conservation, Parks and Natural Areas Branch established the Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Heritage Park to recognise the contributions of this Manitoba pioneer family to the fields of science, art, sports and culture and established the South Atikaki - Provincial Natural Park which recognises the recreational significance of the intact natural condition of the park's landscape. The Amisk Park Reserve was extended for a further five years to enable more consultation.
- Manitoba Conservation, Protected Areas Initiative continued work on a number of nominated ecological reserves including Little George Island, Brokenhead wetland, a site along the Red River and a site in the Porcupine Provincial Forest.
- Manitoba Conservation co-operated on a study with University of Winnipeg Centre for Interdisciplinary Forest Research and Tembec to compare effects of harvest and natural disturbance on biodiversity, using arthropod indicators.
- The Forestry Branch of Manitoba Conservation initiated a research project with the forest industry to quantify the genetic gain in wood supply attributable to using stock produced by the tree improvement program.
- The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch, with the assistance of a computer model, used hunter black bear harvest data and biological samples to evaluate harvest levels to ensure black bear sustainability.
- Manitoba contributed to the restructuring of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and participated in the national assessment process to determine which species are at risk. The

COSEWIC review process has incorporated a new World Conservation Union-based assessment criterion system and the committee has established an Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge subcommittee.

- Manitoba Conservation is an active member of the National Recovery Working Group that facilitates recovery of nationally endangered wildlife. A Recovery Operations Manual has been revised to assist national recovery teams and local recovery action groups. The manual describes the species recovery processes, responsibilities and products required under the *Species at Risk Act*.

Rehabilitation and Reclamation

To meet the intent of Principle # 6, the Department would need to ensure:

a) it actively endeavours to repair or have repaired damage to, or degradation of, the environment; and

b) that the Department builds into its future allocations of and plans for the use of resources the requirement to rehabilitate and reclaim areas and resources that may be damaged.

Examples:

- In support of the Industry, Economic Development and Mines initiative to address safety concerns associated with Orphaned/Abandoned mine sites, Manitoba Conservation initiated site specific human health and environmental risk assessments at Cold Lake/Sherridon.
- Under Manitoba Conservation's Forest Renewal Program the department and industry carried out forest renewal treatments on 10,139 hectares of land, including re-treatments. Most of the area was planted (13.4 million trees), with scarification to promote natural regeneration on the rest.

Global Responsibility

To meet the intent of Principle # 7, the Department would need to ensure:

a) it thinks globally when acting locally, recognizing there is economic, ecological and social interdependence among provinces and nation; and

b) it works co-operatively, within Canada and internationally, to integrate economic, environmental, human health and social factors in decision making while developing comprehensive and equitable solutions to problems.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation as part of the National Forestry Inventory Program established 67 long term ecosystem monitoring plots to measure provincial, national and international reporting requirements related to forest growth, sustainability and climate change.
- Manitoba Conservation worked with the Fur Institute of Canada's Trap Research and Development Committee on humane trapping devices and manufacturing standards. Approved devices were listed in the *Manitoba Trapping Guide*, along with the timetable for implementation of the Canada-Russia-European Union Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards.
- Manitoba Conservation's Remote Sensing Centre processed NOAA / AVHRR satellite data for the Canadian World Crop Monitoring Program, Canadian Global Change Program, and Parks Canada.
- The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch participated on international and federal-provincial working groups and committees ensuring that Manitoba's efforts to conserve biological diversity are coordinated with those of other countries and Canadian jurisdictions, and demonstrating Manitoba's commitment to the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada.

Sustainable Development Guidelines

Efficient Uses of Resources

To meet the intent of Guidelines # 1, the Department would need to:

a) encourage and facilitate development and application and use of systems for proper resource pricing, demand management and resource allocation together with incentives to encourage efficient use of resources; and

b) employ full-cost accounting to provide better information for decision-makers.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation, Forestry Branch initiated a process of Quarterly Stumpage Based Auctions to create an open competitive market mechanism that is transparent in establishing the price of timber and allowing industry an opportunity to bid based on its evaluation of the timber relative to the range of potential products and markets. Auction sales generated an additional 55% in revenue above the upset price.

- Manitoba Conservation, Forestry Branch approved a roadside limbing trial in conjunction with a flexible utilization trial to determine if alternative methods of limbing trees and disposing the debris could be used that would be as beneficial as limbing in the bush. A chipperwood trial was established in western Manitoba to provide an incentive to harvest non-merchantable and small diameter softwood timber for the production of chips for the pulp and paper industry.
- Manitoba Conservation allows the allocation of non-resident big game licences through lodges and outfitters which allowed the department to monitor non-resident harvest to ensure sustainability while meeting the needs of priority users. The program is regularly reviewed and adjusted to ensure objectives are met. This activity, in addition to non-resident waterfowl hunting, generates over $25 million annually in direct economic benefits.
- Manitoba Conservation continued to partner with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and other provincial and federal government departments and agencies to enable an additional 16 municipalities to use water and energy more efficiently.
- The Pollution Prevention Branch provided technical and financial assistance to studies to examine the performance of ultra low flush toilets and drain line carry characteristics in relation to water efficiency.

Public Participation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 2, the Department would need to:

a) use and establish forums which encourage and provide opportunity for consultation and meaningful participation in departmental decision making processes by Manitobans;

b) provide due process, prior notification and appropriate and timely redress for those adversely affected by departmental decisions and actions; and

c) strive to achieve consensus amongst citizens and the department with regard to decisions affecting them.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation completed Phase 1 of the community consultation regarding the Chitek Lake Park Reserve and began the development of a number of consultation packages including, for example, boundary alterations for Camp Morton, Norris Lake, Memorial, Elk Island, Hecla / Grindstone, Duck Mountain and Oak Lake parks.
- The Forestry Branch worked with Tembec to continue a process of establishing Traditional Area Advisory Committees with First Nations in Eastern Manitoba to provide opportunities for involvement in operations, develop mutually acceptable ground rules, and to provide opportunities to participate in planning through the exchange of information, concerns, and traditional ecological knowledge.

Access to Information

To meet the intent of Guideline # 3, the Department would need to:

a) improve and refine economic, environmental, human health and social information related to natural resources and the environment; and

b) provide and promote the opportunity for equal and timely access to its information by all Manitobans.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation's Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) data warehouse was made fully operational and available online to the general public via the Intranet. The MLI warehouse contains all government geospatial GIS data and related databases and meta-data, with interactive mapping tools.
- Manitoba Conservation enhanced the Manitoba Parks website in order to better serve client needs and communicate provincial parks programming.
- Parks and Natural Areas Branch reprinted a variety of publications including *Parks Reservation Service, Family Vacation Cabins*, and *Fall Camping* brochures.
- Manitoba Conservation completed development of a Web page, *Fishing, Hunting and Trapping; The Rights and Responsibilities of First Nations People*.
- The Air Quality Branch made annual air quality statistics for the year 2002 publicly available, and released real-time hourly-updated air quality index information for the downtown Winnipeg site, and explored opportunities to expand the public availability of air quality data.
- The Forestry Branch worked with the Manitoba Forestry Association to deliver an environmental education competition, Envirothon, and the Forest Ed education program for teachers.
- Manitoba Conservation, Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch distributed fact sheets on Manitoba's Species at Risk and plans to expand the fact sheet.
- The Pollution Prevention Branch launched a Manitoba Waste Reduction Website.

Integrated Decision Making and Planning

To meet the intent of Guideline # 4, the Department would need to:

a) encourage, facilitate, establish and ensure its decision making and planning processes are efficient, timely, accountable and cross-sectoral; and
b) incorporate into its decision making and planning an inter-generational perspective of future needs and consequences.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation's planning process for Duck Mountain Park continued with preparation of the draft plan. Public drop-in sessions to review the draft were held along with follow-up meetings with a number of stakeholders and interested individuals. Work began on compiling a summary of public comments document for distribution in 2004. Completion of the plan is expected for 2004 or 2005.
- The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch employs a method to evaluate and manage risks to the environment and human health, using innovative, scientifically credible problem-solving methods to maintain ecosystem quality.

Waste Minimization and Substitution

To meet the intent of Guideline # 5, the Department would need to:

a) encourage and promote, within and outside of the Department, the development and use of substitutes for scarce resources where such substitutes are both environmentally sound and economically viable; and
b) reduce, reuse, recycle and recover the products the Department uses in its daily operations and encourage, promote and facilitate the 4 Rs in society generally.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation continued the implementation of the department's Organizational Action Plan to address the Procurement Goals established under ***The Sustainable Development Act***. The plan's goals encompass many sustainability concerns and represent an initial step toward the challenge of focusing efforts on the most beneficial course for reducing the Government of Manitoba's ecological footprint while enhancing community development. Several action plan targets have been met or exceeded, including increasing the amount of ethanol fuel purchased, increasing the use of recycled paper and remanufactured toner cartridges and including sustainability clauses in contracts and tenders.
- The Pollution Prevention Branch developed a green office checklist and office challenge to encourage more sustainable practices at Manitoba Conservation offices. This resulted in a 2.7% reduction in energy usage for the six month period between September 2003 and February 2004.
- Manitoba Conservation continued to participate on committees such as the City of Winnipeg's Waste Minimization Advisory Committee and CCME Composting Task Group.
- The Pollution Prevention Branch promoted and supported activities related to Waste Reduction Week and in partnership with stewardship agencies and Resource Conservation Manitoba, helped establish a Manitoba Waste Reduction Website.
- The Pollution Prevention Branch promoted extended producer responsibility initiatives by hosting a Plastics Stewardship Workshop in partnership with the University of Manitoba and participated in the 3rd National Workshop on Extended Producer Responsibility in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In partnership with the Solid Waste Association of North America, the Branch was involved in organizing Manitoba's Waste Reduction Conference in Brandon, 2003.
- The Pollution Prevention Branch supported the development of regional recycling networks throughout the province, and provided public information on waste reduction, composting, pollution prevention, green commuting and climate change.

Research and Innovation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 6, a Department would need to:

a) encourage and assist in the research, development, application and sharing of knowledge and technologies which further economic, environmental, human health and social well-being.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation continued its co-operation with local landowners in grazing demonstration projects on the Ebor and Willen Unit Wildlife Management Areas.

- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch continued involvement in Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Demonstration Project in co-operation with Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Ducks Unlimited, Conservation Districts, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, and several cattle producers. The project is aimed at promoting preservation and proper grazing management of mixed-grass prairie.
- Manitoba Conservation's Dutch Elm Disease (DED) program implemented the first phase of the Urban Forestry Information System. The system is a sophisticated data base system designed for tracking diseases and pests in urban forests. The system can record the geographical position of each incidence of DED which is crucial to tracking and analysing the spread of DED over time, and will be used to assess and refinement strategies to combat this disease.
- Parks and Natural Areas Branch issued some 30 permits for scientific research to university researchers, naturalists, consultants, and others to conduct studies in parks. In addition, the Branch helped fund and participate in studies of northern and east side caribou populations.
- The Forestry Branch provided a grant of $130,000 to the Manitoba Forestry Association woodlot program for the development of management plans and technology transfer.
- The Forestry Branch collaborated with other groups on a Dutch Elm Disease research project to study the breeding habits of native elm bark beetles on recently symptomatic elm trees and how this affects the potential of the rapid removal method of elms as a Dutch Elm Disease management tool.

Sustainable Development Procurement Goals

Education, Training, and Awareness

To meet the intent of Goal #1, a department would need to ensure a culture that supports sustainable procurement practices exists within their department by:
(a) increasing awareness about the benefits of Sustainable Development Procurement among departments, employees and vendors; and
(b) expanding the knowledge and skills of procurement practitioners and end users.

For 2003/04, the Department assessed its procurement education and training needs and supported the development of web-based procurement tools and checklists for staff use. A "general statement" regarding individual employee roles and responsibilities respecting Sustainable Procurement was drafted for all employees. The Department continued to adjust manuals and procedures to reflect sustainable development procurement guidelines, such as the Department's Contract Manual. The departmental staff involved in procurement must now ensure sustainability is noted with respect to all purchase requisitions submitted to Procurement Services Branch (TGS).

Pollution Prevention and Human Health Protection

To meet the intent of Goal #2, a department would need to protect the health and environment of Manitobans from possible adverse effects of their operations and activities, and provide a safe and healthy working environment by:
(a) reducing their purchase and use of toxic substances; and
(b) reducing solid waste sent to landfill from Government of Manitoba owned or leased facilities occupied by the department.

For 2003/04, the Department prepared environmentally preferable product and services checklists that will be made available through the department's website. The Department continued amendments to janitorial contracts in order to reduce toxic substance use and replace with environmentally friendly products only. The Department also prepared a draft standard for minimum requirements for waste management and recycling for all Conservation owned buildings and facilities. The department participated with Transportation and Government Services in a pilot program at Manitoba Conservation office located in Winnipeg that will be used to develop a comprehensive recycling/ waste stream management system for government. All departmental tender/RFP documents must now include the requirement for sustainable waste management, as well as all departmental requisitions when transmitted to Procurement Services Branch of Transportation and Government Services. All offices are now required to utilize recycled paper and remanufactured toner cartridges. Duplex copier equipment is required where volumes warrant.

Reduction of Fossil Fuel Emissions

To meet the intent of Goal #3, a department would need to reduce fossil fuel emissions of their operations and activities by:

(a) reducing both consumption and emissions of vehicle fuels; and

(b) as a substitute for regular fuels, increase their use of ethanol-blended fuels and alternative energy sources.

For 2003/04, the Department's ethanol fuel consumption surpassed the target of 10% of total fuel usage, reaching 11%. The department continued to use alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet. These were:

- Two 2001 Toyota Prius Hybrid
- One 2004 Honda Civic Hybrid
- Three 2003 Chrysler mini vans which are flexible fuel vehicles – E85 capable
- One 2004 Chevy Suburban – E85 capable
- Six diesel powered vehicles

Resource Conservation

To meet the intent of Goal #4, a department would need to reduce their use and consumption of resources in a sustainable and environmentally preferable manner by:

(a) reduce the total annual consumption of utilities including natural gas, electricity, propane, fuel oil and water in all leased or owned Government of Manitoba buildings and premises occupied by the department; and

(b) within the context of reduced resource use, increase the proportion of environmentally preferable products and environmentally preferable services used by the department.

For 2003/04, the department, in order to increase participation in utility savings activities, held a GO Green contest for the six month period from September 2003 to February 2004. Through simple everyday energy reduction measures, an overall savings of nearly 3% was achieved for all Conservation owned or leased buildings. As a result of the contest current utility use was compiled to develop minimum requirements for each owned or leased building and utility efficiency and greening checklists were prepared. The department established SD procurement clauses for all contracts and tenders. The wording was incorporated into the department's contract manual and is now a requirement of all purchase requisitions.

Community Economic Development

To meet the intent of Goal #5, a department would need to ensure that their procurement practices foster and sustain community economic development by:

(a) increasing the participation of Aboriginal peoples and suppliers in providing for the department's goods and services needs;

(b) assisting in the development and growth of local environmental industries and markets for environmentally preferable products and services; and

(c) increasing the participation of small businesses, community based businesses and Co-ops in the department's procurement opportunities.

For 2003/04, the department continued conducting Aboriginal Procurement Initiative information sessions with Branches. The department has been tracking its API activity since June 2003. The department also continued discussions through Manitoba Procurement Council respecting corporate responsibilities for environmental industries, small and CED businesses and Co-ops.

Government-wide Implementation of Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development Act, proclaimed July 1, 1998, mandates all government departments to incorporate sustainable development practices into their activities. The Act creates a framework through which sustainable development will be implemented in the public sector. The Manitoba government is not only required to fulfill the obligation of promoting sustainability within its operations, it must also report annually on the progress made in this effort. In this way, the public can review updates on how departments are progressing toward sustainability. All Manitobans can play a part in our drive to achieve the goals set out in ***The Sustainable Development Act***, and with the information provided to them on an annual basis, government's progress can be easily monitored.

There are specific requirements under the Act which require implementation over time through a co-operative effort across the Manitoba government, utilizing working groups of staff under the direction of a steering committee of senior officials, ultimately reporting to Cabinet. Manitoba Conservation is the lead department in this exercise, coordinating the government-wide effort to ensure sustainability is a fundamental element of our activities. As part of the responsibility of being the lead department, Manitoba Conservation must track the progress being achieved on a provincial scale.

The following is a summary and progress report on the implementation of the requirements of ***The Sustainable Development Act*** by the Manitoba government:

Provincial Sustainable Development Code of Practice:

- Work continued on identified activities such as the development of a Sustainability Evaluation Tool (SET) to assist in the preparation of sustainability impact assessments that would accompany financial processes such as Treasury Board and Cabinet Submissions.
- Reporting guidelines were established to assist Departments reporting on Sustainable Development Activity and to provide a consistent method of reporting across Government.

Financial Management Guidelines:

- Work continued primarily on the development of a Sustainability Evaluation Tool (SET) to assist in the preparation of sustainability impact assessments that would accompany financial processes such as Treasury Board and Cabinet Submissions.

Sustainability Guidelines Regulations for Local Governments, School Divisions, Universities, Colleges and Regional Health Authorities:

- The *Sustainability Guidelines for Local Governments, School Divisions, Universities, Colleges and Regional Health Authorities Regulation* was passed in January 2004.
- An implementation process for the regulation was developed through stakeholder consultation and adopted by Cabinet in January 2004.

Sustainability Indicators and Reporting:

- The Act requires preparation of a provincial Sustainability Report by July 2005 and subsequent reports every five years thereafter.
- The Manitoba government is compiling data and information into a draft report to be published in the summer of 2005. All government departments are participating in the process.

Sustainable Development Procurement Goals and Organizational Action Plans:

All departments provided Sustainable Development Procurement Action Plans and submitted their 2002-2003 Reports to Manitoba Procurement Council. An annual Sustainable Development Procurement Report to Cabinet for 2002-2003 was prepared that outlines progress in adjusting purchasing behaviour towards products and services that minimize adverse impacts on the environment, economy, human health, and well-being.

Introduction

The information contained in this Annual Report for Manitoba Conservation, 2003-04 provides insight into the many and various activities undertaken by the Department over the past fiscal year.

On November 2, 2003 the Premier announced a government reorganization which affected the Department of Conservation. Programs were removed from the Department of Conservation to form the newly established Department of Water Stewardship. The areas removed were Water Branch, Regional Water Operations, Fisheries Branch, Regional Fisheries Operations, and the Office of Drinking Water.

Manitoba Conservation has a mandate to protect, conserve, manage and sustain the development of the Province's forest, wildlife, Crown land and park land resources; to protect the integrity of the environment and to ensure a high level of environmental quality and public health for present and future generations.

Through the integrated management of these resources, the Department is the lead agency responsible for providing outdoor recreational opportunities for Manitobans and visitors to the Province. The Department is also a major contributor to the economic development and well-being of the Province, particularly at the community or regional level, through resource-based harvesting operations which it supports and through cooperation with other departments in supporting their efforts in such areas as agriculture, fisheries and tourism. The Department is also responsible for continued Treaty and Aboriginal rights of access to certain natural resources. Providing for basic resource needs for subsistence users, and protecting people, property and resource values from wildfires and the adverse effects of other natural occurrences are the other major roles of the Department.

The Department is responsible for the administration of legislation and regulations pertaining to the environment and public health; participating in the approval, licensing and appeals for development activities; administration of waste reduction and pollution prevention activities and monitoring of environmental quality. The department works to ensure compliance of land, resource, environmental and public health legislation through education, voluntary action, negotiation, audit and enforcement.

Administration and Finance

The Administration and Finance Division provides executive management of programs and management services, including financial, human resource, computer, and administrative support.

Minister's Salary

The Minister's Salary provides the Minister with additional compensation to which an individual appointed to Executive Council is entitled.

Table AF.1

12.1(a) Minister's Salary

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	28.9	1.00	29.0	(0.1)	

Executive Support

This area comprises support staff in the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister of Conservation.

The purpose of Executive Support is to develop, implement and oversee policies and programs which are designed to attain, over the long term, the goals set out in the Department's role and mission statement, advise the Minister on matters relating to the Department, provide policy direction for departmental programs, co-ordinate departmental communications activities and initiatives, and provide administrative support for the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister.

Table AF.2

12.1(b) Executive Support

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	389.4	6.00	376.4	13.0	
Total Other Expenditures	211.8		93.2	118.6	

Corporate Services

The Branch provides financial, human resource, administrative, computer support, warehousing and library services to ensure appropriate use of resources and effective delivery of programs, in compliance with policies and procedures.

Financial Services include processing of revenues and expenditures in accordance with legislative, Treasury Board, and Departmental requirements, estimates preparation, asset management, accountable advances, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and cashflow forecasting.

Administrative Services include annual report preparation, vehicle co-ordination, parking administration, central inventory, delegated financial signing authorities, employee housing, records management co-ordination, freedom-of-information management, French language services co-ordination, warehousing, and risk management and workplace safety and health.

Information Technology Services include administration, planning, project management, application planning and operational support, management and co-ordination of external resources, and co-ordination of Desktop Management.

The Conservation and Environment Library delivers library and information services to employees of Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Environment Canada in Winnipeg, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, and the public. Library staff provided a variety of services in response to over 3000 information requests from employees and the public, in addition to coordinating interlibrary loans, current awareness services and periodical subscriptions. During the year, the public information and sales section of the library was expanded to accommodate a greater number of pamphlets and brochures, books and map products.

178 requests under ***The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*** were actioned.

The Department continues to implement its French Language Services Plan to reflect current operations and in keeping with the *Chartier Report* on French language services. Translation of documents and the Website continues. The department continues to participate in the Bilingual Service Centres.

Risk Management Program assists staff to identify situations that could disrupt programs or result in unexpected losses, assists evaluating hazards with programs and facilities, and assists developing and prioritising risk control to reduce or eliminate hazards. Liability incidents involved payment of $3,371.00 and claims for property damages were reported with values totalling $59,402. Total building/property evaluations reported for insurance purposes were $119,573.3 M.

The Departmental warehouse is the equipment/supply storage and mobilization point for branches and Fire Operations Centre. In emergencies, such as fire and flood, it becomes the logistical support base for all equipment. Disposition of fleet and Department vehicles was administered.

Table AF.3
12.1(c) Corporate Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	758.3	15.00	785.0	(26.7)	
Total Other Expenditures	827.9		704.6	123.3	

Financial Services

The Branch provides financial services to the Executive, program managers and operational staff, undertakes comptrollership, ensures that the public has convenient access to hunting and fishing licences, and *Park Vehicle Permits*. The Branch coordinated departmental implementation of financial, procurement and asset management components of the *SAP* accounting system.

Budget Management Section is responsible for the SAP accounting system, developing all financial coding, reporting, general ledger implementation and reconciliation, and advising staff on SAP financial transactions. The Section manages and maintains controls on the departmental expenditures and revenues, enabling the Department to complete the year within budget and meet budgetary targets. This Section has the responsibility of coordinating and preparing the departmental quarterly expenditures, revenues and capital cashflow reports and yearly preparation of the departmental Expenditures and Revenue Estimates. The Section controls and administers the departmental asset management component and also provides training in various financial processes of the department.

Licensing Section managed a network of 836 private and 128 departmental Licence Vendors through which convenient public access was provided for angling, hunting, migratory waterfowl, *Park Vehicle Entry*, trapping, and various other licences and permits. Licensing also manages the revenue collected by the Department for camping and park vehicle permits. Statistical information on campground occupancy and revenue generated by each is also produced. Total sales were 584,466 licences and permits for combined revenue of $11,904,152. Vendor activity included 71 new appointments, 75 discontinuances, 14 suspensions and 13 reinstatements. 771 private vendors are in rural areas.

Where licence availability is limited, draws to allocate hunting opportunities for Manitoba residents are conducted using a multi-level priority licence draw system. Of 9,194 applicants, 6,448 were awarded licences.

Revenue Management processed over 27,500 payment transactions totaling $85,800,000. These consisted of 21,500 mail-in remittances worth $22,400,000, 6,000 direct sales by the Winnipeg cashier's office totaling $1,800,000 and $61,600,000 in Water Power Rental and Land payments. $4,350,000 in over 8,400 invoice payments was processed by Fine.Line, allowing for prompt deposit of funds and electronic updating of client records. Payment options available for these clients included in person at most financial institutions, using a bank machine, on-line and telephone banking. Credit cards were accepted at 44 locations, of which 36 also accepted debit cards. Revenue Management processed transactions for over 50 revenue streams.

The Public Information section responded to the following requests for information and assistance:

- 50,500 direct telephone requests to the Information Officers
- 54,185 calls were received by the automated Public Information Line of which 9,585 where handled directly by the line
- 72,688 in person requests
- 6,607 requests through the Internet
- 6,504 information packages mailed

The Public Information section also supplies regional and district offices with the majority of publications distributed by the Department, and provide program assistance to branches such as scheduling tours of the Narcisse Snake Dens, accepting and recording Seasonal Camping Applications and funds.

Disbursements Management Section processed approximately 22,000 procurement transactions and 28,500 payments with a financial impact of $109.9 million in expenditures. The Section administered the purchasing card program on behalf of 560 cardholders located throughout the Province. The Section provided co-ordination and guidance to staff working with the SAP system as well as direction to the Department with respect to purchasing arrangements and payables.

During the 2003/2004 fiscal year the Contract Management Section administered over 167 new contracts for construction, engineering and environmental consulting, and fee for service agreements for a total of $10,003,651.25. In addition, the section handled 66 contracts carried over from previous years. The section also provided advice to program managers on contract technicalities, tendering policies, bid opening practices, insurance and bonding requirements. 64 new grants to organizations totalling $2,349,511.00 were issued and monitored. The Section completed the Manual on Contracting /Tendering Policies and during the fall conducted training sessions in all the regions and in Winnipeg for Conservation staff. The Section is working towards posting all Contract Templates on the shared "T" drive. The Section continues to prepare specialized financial reports for the Executive, Provincial Auditors, Manitoba Finance and Treasury Board Secretariat upon request.

For the 2004/2005 fiscal year the Contract Management Section will continue to provide advice and support to Departmental Staff regarding contractual obligations.

Table AF.4

12.1(d) Financial Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,461.3	30.33	1,391.4	69.9	
Total Other Expenditures	357.3		392.1	(34.8)	

Human Resource Services

Staffing

- Staffing activity included 69 competitive appointments, 107 direct appointments and 38 term extensions. Guidance and advice were provided on Departmental Employee staffing, which has been delegated to managers: there were about 215 appointments to Departmental Employee positions. There were no selection appeals.
- Assisted in developing and implementing the Youth Employment (Green Team) Program, employing about 334 youths in rural Manitoba.

Labour/Employee Relations

- Provided guidance and advice to management on 79 labour relations issues, including appropriate discipline, and negotiating settlements to resolve issues before the formal grievance stage. There were 14 formal grievances.

Classification

- Classification activity included 130 position classification reviews completed. There were no classification appeals.

Pay and Benefits

- Processed pay and benefits for about 2,400 staff.
- Provided guidance and advice on pay administration issues.

Organizational Review and Development

- Provided guidance and advice on implementation of organizational changes.
- Employees attended 109 training courses conducted by Organization and Staff Development, 12 at educational institutions, and 118 provided by private vendors.

Employment Equity

- Participated in Aboriginal Public Administration Program.
- On-going implementation of Aboriginal Employment Strategy Program.

Table AF.5
Employment Equity Representation

Fiscal Year	Total		Male		Female		Aboriginal		Persons w. Disability		Visible Minority	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2001-02	2084	100	1414	67.9	670	32.1	378	18.1	47	2.3	34	1.6
2002-03	2118	100	1422	67.1	696	32.9	382	18.0	46	2.2	37	1.7
2003-04	2411	100	1547	64.2	864	35.8	390	16.2	45	1.9	36	1.5

Table AF.5
12.1(e) Human Resource Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,054.6	20.00	1,051.8	2.8	
Total Other Expenditures	133.4		127.0	6.4	

Information Technology Services

The Branch provides internal information technology service and expertise, including systems analysis, design, implementation, corporate database management, and development and management of a yearly department-wide information technology systems plan. The Branch develops and maintains the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) spatial data warehouse.

Major activities

- Work commenced on the development of a new software module within the Environmental Management System (EMS) to manage the needs of the Office of Drinking Water. This new module will facilitate water quality recording by location, lab testing results management, and recording of public and private water supply providers. The EMS system will also be migrated to the latest software version to offer web-based deployment to staff users throughout the Province. Once completed, there will also be a public interface capability to provide certain water quality information data sets to the general public through a web based interface.
- Software development on the ENFOR package is nearing completion. ENFOR is a suite of tools designed to replace an out-dated enforcement/tracking and occurrence reporting system in regional offices. The system will be Intranet-based and available to over 200 Natural Resource Officers and regional staff.
- A new Emergency Fire Fighters payroll system for Human Resource Services Branch was deployed to replace and enhance the outdated package in use.
- A new web based internet map server was set up in Manitoba to provide forest data for the National Forest Information System (NFIS). The NFIS server is being developed to provide an Internet Web-based system wherein the public can find and review databases on Canada's forests and environmental conditions. Information on forest management practices will include harvesting information, reforestation, forest fires, and related biophysical and environmental indicators.

- The Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) data warehouse is available online to the general public via the Intrane This repository is being significantly enhanced with new data sets and new user interfaces. The ML warehouse contains all government geospatial GIS data and related databases and meta-data, wit interactive mapping tools. The data warehouse now has over 3,500 registered users.
- The ITS Branch continued development on additional Web pages to meet the needs of the publi Conservation now has over 12,000 active Web pages, managed by a Web Co-ordinator. Addition enhancements were also developed on the internal Intranet side.
- Work continued on the development of a new software application to support commercial fisherie management in the Interlake Regional office.
- The Branch developed a new software application for the Wildlife Branch to manage the Disabled Hunte Program.
- The ITS Branch continued its work on the migration of many application and data base servers to up-grade architectures of software and hardware.
- The ITS Branch completed a project to refresh 350 desktop/laptop computers within the Conservation an Water Stewardship departments. This included the testing and certification of over 350 softwar applications of which over 40 were custom packaged for multiple user distribution.
- The ITS Branch is working with the Licensing Section and Energy, Science, and Technology in th development of an e-commerce solution to provide web based sales of various licence and permit offering over the Internet for the general public.

Table AF.6
12.1(f) Information Technology Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	**Actual 2003/04**	**Estimate 2003/04**		**Variance Over/(Under)**	**Expl. No.**
	$	**FTE**	**$**		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,078.7	16.00	1,025.8	52.9	
Total Other Expenditures	100.6		115.8	(15.2)	

Conservation Support Services

Computer Graphics

The unit provides computer-aided design and drafting (CAD), desktop publishing, and geographic information system GIS) services to the Department. Specialized CAD services include engineering plans for capital works and nfrastructure maintenance projects. Desktop publishing produces high-quality informational materials for programs, policies, and initiatives. GIS services provide expertise for spatial data analyses and preparation of geo-referenced maps.

The unit received 209 requests for service, of which 207 were completed and 2 are in progress.

Services provided included:

- Supported Waterway Maintenance program by preparing engineering plans for the maintenance and refurbishment of water control infrastructure e.g., Roblin Drain, Hatchery Drain, Fish Lake Drain and Wavy Creek Drain.
  Prepared construction plans for Dominion City, Emerson, Gretna, Rosenfeld and Dominion City Valley Town Dykes.
- Maintained and improved the Red River Flood Management System, a web-based decision support system, designed to improve the ability of emergency managers, flood fighters, and valley residents to respond to future flood events.
- Continued the Implementation of spatial data library for Manitoba Conservation. This involved the checking of data layers for accuracy and technical integrity. In addition, created and collected vital background information (Metadata) about the data in the spatial data library.
- Provided Geographic System Support to the Protected Areas Initiative Program. This involved the data creation, topology structuring and map production.
- Provided mapping service to all Branches.
- Provided Desktop publishing services to all programs areas through complete publication of several booklets and brochures. Some of the documents that were designed and published are: *2004 Hunting Guide, 2004 Anglers' Guide, Stephenfield Lake Water Management Plan, Manitoba Provincial Dams Brochure, Parks Reservation/Service Manual, Waterwise Activity Booklet* and *Educational Children Activity Booklet* for Pollution Prevention Branch, *Draft Sustainability Report, Dangers of Elm Firewood Brochure, Common Native Pasture Plants – A landowner's Guide and Career Guide Brochure*.
- Prepared storyboards and display boards for Aboriginal Relations Branch Display Booth at various events. Also prepared display boards for Protected Areas Initiative Display at the Mines and Technology convention held in Winnipeg. Prepared presentation boards for Parks System Planning Open House
- Redesigned all summer, winter and seasonal-use maps, trail and route maps for Parks and Natural Areas Branch. Designed and produced signage and permits for Parks campgrounds.
- Redesigned Parks Merchandise logos for various provincial parks e.g., Whiteshell, Birds Hill, Grand Beach, St. Malo, Clearwater, Duck Mountain and Trappist Monastery.
- Designed and printed posters and banners for special events e.g., Atikaki Park Signage for Ontario Border
- Continued to provide support to Manitoba Geographical Names Program, to honour war casualties.
- Prepared annual updates of Crown Land Operational Code maps for Crown Land Classification Committee.
- Supported Water Stewardship - Water Resources Water Licensing Program by preparing location plans for the production wells at various towns, farms and industrial operations. Also provided mapping services to support Drainage licensing. Prepared location maps for Environmental Approval Branch as part of newspaper advertisement for public hearings.
- Performed miscellaneous tasks such as the plotting of hydrology data, and mean monthly levels of Manitoba lakes. Designed report covers, charts and graphs for various publications. Maintained Department organization charts for Human Resources Branch.

Table CS.1

12.2(a) Computer Graphics

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	518.4	10.00	551.6	(33.2)	
Total Other Expenditures	34.5		37.7	(3.2)	

Survey Services

The Branch administers and enforces ***The Surveys Act*** (Part II) and *The Survey of Mining Claims Regulation*, approves Plans of Survey for disposition of land under ***The Crown Lands Act*** and *The Mineral Disposition and Mineral Lease Regulation* (***The Mines and Minerals Act***), represents Manitoba on matters related to provincial boundaries, provides survey services to other Departments, and maintains the Manitoba Spatial Reference Network and Land Survey System. Public benefits include a secure process for conveyance and reservation of Crown land and rights therein, an economical survey service for acquisition and disposition of land, a survey system for determining property boundaries, and a geodetic survey network for spatial referencing of land-related information.

Land Survey System Program

The program restores survey monuments of the Provincial Land Survey system, an infrastructure for land conveyance, to ensure a strong cadastral framework for economic activities. It restores survey monuments and maintains survey documents concerning provincial boundaries. The program provides instructions to Manitoba Land Surveyors on the survey of Crown lands, examines their survey returns, approves their plans of survey, and operates a Survey Information Centre. This centre maintains cadastral and geodetic survey information dating back to 1870 and provides such information to industry, government departments and agencies, and the general public.

The Branch placed 116 monuments in township and parish-lot systems of survey, provided 28 sets of survey instructions, examined 67 plans of survey, approved 64 plans of survey, and responded to 350 information requests. Survey Services provided 372 marker posts to private land surveyors at no charge for protecting and locating survey monuments of the township system.

Conversion of documents to electronic format continued with scanning and indexing of plans of survey, control survey station descriptions, and surveyors' field notes. Scanning of on-site records now include 8,070 of 8,670 plans of survey and 104 of 260 field books. Scanning of station descriptions is current, which presently consists of 2,600 control survey sites. Off-site records consisting of 12,872 plans of survey were indexed and will be considered for scanning in future years. The Survey Information Centre continued development of a Field Book Database for users seeking surveyor's field notes.

An arrangement with Natural Resources Canada was continued to modify, reproduce and redistribute Canadian Geodetic Bulletin Board Service Digital Information, providing "one-stop shopping" for basic control survey information

Manitoba Spatial Reference Network Program

The program maintains a network of survey monuments whose positions and/or elevations have been determined. Disciplines such as civil engineering, resource management, and land surveying require this network to determine position and elevation of natural and man-made features and related information. This is essential to ensure compatibility of all geomatics, navigation, and other spatial information, to permit exchange and merger, seamlessly and economically.

The Manitoba Spatial Reference Network is integral to Canadian Spatial Reference System (CSRS), contributing to a reliable national infrastructure for referencing spatial information. Staff continued upgrading mathematical positioning of etwork stations, which now comprises 181 primary and roughly 10,000 secondary stations, with CSRS 1998 co-rdinate values.

Survey Services announced the official launch of the Canada-Wide Differential GPS Service (CDGPS) on October 4th, 2003. An initiative of the Canadian Council on Geomatics through its working group the Canadian Geodetic Reference System Committee, a body of federal, provincial and territorial government representatives rom across the country, CDGPS is a new satellite-based, real-time differential GPS (DGPS) service designed to rovide reliable GPS position corrections. For users with a CDGPS receiver, it provides sub-metre (dual-requency) to 2 metre positioning for all of Canada. The system provides a free nation-wide service that will enefit all users by improving the standardization of spatial data collection and the positional accuracy of spatial nformation. It is suitable for natural resource management, environmental monitoring, agriculture, marine, nineral exploration, facilities management, precision farming, resource management, GIS and mapping, and avigation applications.

The required funding for this initiative was approximately $3.61 million distributed over a 5 year period starting n 1999. The funding formula allocated approximately one-third of this cost to Canada, one-third to Ontario and British Columbia, and one-third to the remaining provinces treating the Atlantic Provinces as one. Manitoba's contribution to this initiative was $230,000.00 and for this commitment received 32 CDGPS receivers for istribution in the department. Currently 22 radios have been assigned to staff in all regions. A pool of 4 eceivers will be kept at Survey Services for short-term loan periods.

For more information please visit the CDGPS Web-site at <http://www.cdgps.com/>

The Branch continued to provide basic training to Conservation staff on the GPS system including equipment peration, geographic and map co-ordinates, heights or elevations, and navigation. Each session required a day; nstructions in the morning and field exercise in the afternoon.

Staff continued discussions with counterpart agencies in the federal and other provincial governments on (1) the ormal adoption of the North America Datum 1983 (NAD 83) as realized by the Canadian Spatial Reference System 1998 (CSRS 98) and (2) modernization of the Canadian Height System for geo-referencing activities.

Survey Services Program

The Program provides land, engineering, and control surveys and related services for acquiring and disposing of land, constructing and maintaining public works, and spatially referencing land-related features and information, including:

- Subdivision, right-of-way, parcel, and easement surveys
- Terrain modelling and contour surveys, including beds of water bodies
- Cross-section and centre-line profile surveys
- Project-specific mapping and engineering control surveys
- Topographical and location surveys
- Cadastral mapping
- Air-photo compilations
- Deformation and subsidence surveys
- Land dimensions, quantities, and spatial co-ordinates
- Administrative boundary plans
- Legal descriptions and title plots
- Structure location certifications
- Land transaction documents

Major client departments included Transportation and Government Services (Construction and Maintenance, and Land Management Services), Water Stewardship (Water Branch) Manitoba Conservation (Parks and Natural Areas, Lands), Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (Agreement Management Co-ordination, and Community Support Services), Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines (Mines and Petroleum), and Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs (Local Government Support Services, and Water Services Board).

Land description services are offered to municipalities, law and survey firms, and citizens for Crown land reservations, dispositions, and other consents or rights, for such purposes as subdivisions, sales and exchanges, plan cancellations, and closing bylaws. These services include preparation of legal descriptions, calculation of areas, reviews of easement documents, reports on mines and minerals, and preparation of Minister's Orders and Consents.

Survey Services achieved its cost-recovery objective. Surveyors and survey technologists carried out work on 472 projects: 197 land surveys, 8 control surveys, and 267 land descriptions. Noteworthy work included:

- Parcel surveys of Northern Flood Agreement site selections by Cross Lake First Nation.
- Retracement and right-of-way surveys of PTH 1 from PTH 100 to Headingley.
- Right-of-way survey of PR 307 from PTH 44 running northward 23 kilometres.
- Right-of-way survey of South Buffalo Creek Water Control Works covering 9 kilometres.
- Right-of way survey of PTH 1 from west of Virden to Saskatchewan border.
- Road and parcel surveys concerning St. Theresa Point and Wasagamack Indian Reserves.
- Right-of-way survey of PTH 17 from Teulon to Inwood.
- Right-of-way survey of road through Black Sturgeon Indian Reserve.
- Establishment of deep benchmarks east of Portage la Prairie for Transportation and Government Services.

Table CS.2

12.2(b) Survey Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,395.6	30.00	1,545.4	(149.8)	
Total Other Expenditures	495.6		456.9	38.7	
Total Recoveries	(1,449.0)		(1,570.7)	121.7	

Distribution Centre

The Centre serves government and public with map sales, air-photo library, support for projects, and reproduction of material. The market for these products is primarily the public.

35,990 maps were sold directly or through about 150 dealers in Manitoba.

Sale of mapping products and the e-commerce site is promoted by advertising in Yellow Pages, *Anglers' Guide*, Travel Manitoba publications, and display headers.

8,273 aerial photo products were supplied to customers, Mapping Program, and other agencies.

A feasibility study was completed to explore more efficient/effective ways of operation and providing products and services to the public and other Departments. The study was forwarded to Treasury Board for review. This study has not yet been approved and is still at Treasury Board.

Table CS.3

12.2(c) Distribution Centre

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	365.2	8.00	358.6	6.6	
Total Other Expenditures	335.7		309.7	26.0	
Total Recoveries	(64.6)		(50.0)	(14.6)	

Regional Operations

Programs and activities are delivered in six Regions: Northwest Region, Northeast Region, Interlake Region, Eastern Region, Western Region, and Red River Region, and supported from Headquarters Operations in Winnipeg, which also supervises the Fire Program, the Office of Drinking Water, and the Environmental Livestock Program. Multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from 59 community-based district and regional offices as well as Headquarters offices in Winnipeg carry out the work. The Drinking Water Program transferred to the new Department of Water Stewardship in November 2003.

Programs and services delivered at the community level include:

- Field activities for resource and environmental management,
- Enforcement of legislation,
- Environmental Livestock Program,
- Office of Drinking Water,
- Environmental Programs (includes transportation of dangerous goods, petroleum storage programs, contaminated sites hazardous waste and on-site wastewater),
- Public Health Inspection Programs,
- Operation of Provincial Parks, waterways and water control works,
- Emergency response to environmental accidents, forest fires and floods,
- Co-ordination of hunter-safety training and guide licensing,
- Problem wildlife control.

Headquarters Operations

Headquarters Operations directs and co-ordinates natural resource, environmental, and public health programs in the field through operational guidelines, development of policy and procedures, and liaison with resource Branches and external agencies. Cost-effective use of resources is ensured through operational guidelines, organisational standards and controls, monitoring effectiveness, financial controls, and reporting.

Environmental Livestock Program

The Environmental Livestock Team administers the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation*. Team members, including Environment Officers and Environmental Engineers, are regionally based to provide local coverage. Primary team responsibilities include investigation of complaints, annual inspection of permitted manure storage facilities, inspection of storage facilities under construction, and enforcement of Regulations on management of manure and mortalities.

A total of 77 permits for construction or modification of manure storage facilities were issued during 2003/04. Staff conduct a minimum of three inspections during construction of facilities to ensure compliance with Permit and Regulation requirements and to address problems encountered during construction.

Staff conducted annual inspections of the 509 manure storage facilities for which permits were issued since 1994. Inspections focus on erosion protection for inner surfaces of earthen facilities, visible signs of erosion, leakage, construction defects or damage, potential environmental effects, and management of mortalities.

Audits were completed for 58 of the 357 manure management plans (15%) registered for the 2003 crop year. Charges were laid against some operators for excessive rates of manure application as well as against some operators who failed to register manure management plans.

Headquarters Operations ensures consistent program delivery through development of procedures, standards and policies. Headquarters also administer Manure Management Plans, essential to regulate manure disposal for intensive livestock operations.

Manure management plans are an effective tool for ensuring the sustainability of livestock production by addressing the Sustainable Development principle of Stewardship. The plans prescribe application of manure at rates that are agronomically and environmentally sound, thereby ensuring crop production is economically viable while protecting groundwater quality for future use. Most large-scale hog producers register manure management plans annually as required; efforts are underway to obtain higher rates of compliance among other sectors.

The Sustainable Development Principle of Prevention is particularly well addressed by the permitting of construction, modification or expansion of manure storage facilities. The process, which requires engineering design, technical review, inspection and certification, is designed to prevent significant adverse environmental impacts from development of livestock production operations.

Table RO.1 shows enforcement over the last ten years.

Table RO.1
Livestock Regulation Enforcement 1994-95 to 2003-04

Fiscal Year	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Orders	Fines ($)
1994-95	5	15	1	1,188.
1995-96	8	13	1	1,716.
1996-97	14	21	4	11,010.
1997-98	15	12	6	6,726.
1998-99	12	32	7	11,862.
1099-00	9	35	10	8,496.
2000-01	16	49	22	8,067.
2001-02	16	53	34	11,903.
2002-03	15	59	21	20,280.
2003-04	19	54	57	23,076.
Total	**129**	**343**	**163**	**$104,324.**

Dangerous Goods

The Dangerous Goods Section administers programs for the transportation of dangerous goods, petroleum storage, contaminated sites, hazardous waste and emergency response, to:

- Co-ordinate development of policies and procedures and maintain policy/procedure manuals,
- Co-ordinate and lead teams in each program,
- Provide guidance, co-ordinate training, and ensure consistent program delivery across Regions,
- Provide technical expertise, leadership and information to government, clients, and general public,
- Processing of hazardous waste transport and facility licences.

Petroleum Storage Program

The Petroleum Storage Program manages the installation, alteration, removal and testing of regulated petroleum storage facilities. There are 4750 storage sites in Manitoba that are or have previously been registered with Manitoba Conservation. These include active facilities, inactive facilities and locations at which the storage tanks and associated piping have been removed (dismantled sites). Of the 4750 sites, 2300 are still active; the remainder have been dismantled.

Construction of new storage facilities in the past year has slowed down from previous years. 68 permits to construct new facilities were issued in 2003.

The implementation of Licensing of Petroleum Technicians began as of December 29, 2003. Only Licensed Petroleum Technicians may construct, alter, remove or perform certain tests on petroleum storage facilities. Prospective Technicians must meet specific criteria which includes both a course of study and field experience. The applications are reviewed by an Advisory Committee established by the Minister of Conservation and recommendations are made to the Director regarding which applicants are worthy of receiving a Licence. Currently there are 104 Petroleum Technicians licensed in Manitoba.

A *Reference Guide for Owners, Operators and Suppliers regarding Petroleum Storage Tank Systems* was developed by the Department to aid clients in complying with the current legislation.

Contaminated/Impacted Sites

Approximately 2000 impacted sites in the Manitoba Sites Database are tracked in the Environmental Management System, seven of which have been designated as contaminated under ***The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act***.

All identified contaminated sites with contamination greater than lowest applicable guideline values, including those not designated as Contaminated Sites, are tracked to ensure public safety and health and environmental protection. Sites that threaten human health and/or the environment are designated.

The Contaminated/Impacted Sites Web Page was established.

Standard Operating Procedures for the Contaminated Sites Program are currently under review. Also in development are a Monitoring Well Sampling Protocol, a Contaminated Site Closure Letter Policy and Information Bulletin pertaining to the 2004 Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment BTEX (Benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, xylenes) Quality Guidelines, and a Request for Particulars to develop an eligible Consultant List for Manitoba Conservation to utilize for environmental accident and contaminated sites incidents.

Technical expertise from Headquarters was provided specifically for the West Hawk Lake contamination in Eastern Region, contamination at Mac's, Selkirk in Interlake Region, contamination at the former Eastview Esso in Swan River, and for on-going sites work for Northeast, Northwest and Western Regions.

Hazardous Waste Program

370 hazardous waste generators were registered in the past year. There are currently a total of 7,987 registered generators in the Manitoba Conservation database. Approximately 15,000 hazardous waste transport manifests were processed in fiscal year 2003-04. Six hazardous waste transport licenses were processed, as were 14 Eco-centre/waste oil depot licences and six used oil burner licences.

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Program

Passage of the *Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Regulation*, the provincial adoption of the Federal Clear Language *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulation* with consequential amendments to the *Manifest Regulation* and the *Anhydrous Ammonia Handling and Transportation Regulation*.

The new Federal Regulations came in to force in late 2002. In 2003, approximately 100 enforcement staff, including RCMP, Highways Compliance Officers, Environment Officers, and City of Winnipeg Police, completed the training of the new regulations.

Enforcement includes regular on-highway inspections at weigh scales, and special enforcement operations such as 24 hour blitzes, road check programs and random inspection roadblocks.

Manitoba Conservation is involved in providing training developed in 2003 to the enforcement staff in highway tank standards.

Emergency Response Team

The Emergency Response Program received over 2000 calls to the Emergency Response 24-hour line. Of these, 654 were handled directly by the Department's Emergency Response Team and/or Regional Response Program personnel. The remainders, calls that were received but were not within the Department's mandate, were directed to the appropriate outside agencies for action.

The Department continued to upgrade and refresh the training of the Emergency Response Team and the Regional Response Program personnel. Thirteen staff have been trained to NFPA 472 Technicians Level Hazardous Materials Responder. Various other training initiatives were made available to the response Program personnel to upgrade their skill sets.

The Emergency Response Team assisted Police Forces with removal and disposal of chemicals found at clandestine drug operations and marijuana grow operations. The Emergency Response Team has been actively involved in training and preparedness for CBRN terrorism response in Manitoba.

The Environmental Accident Reporting Regulation has been redrafted for amendment and is expected to be completed in 2004. This regulation will expand the reporting requirements for environmental accidents to include contaminants previously not listed for reporting. It will bring the reporting requirements in Manitoba in line with Federal CEPA, and TDG reporting requirements.

Table RO.2

Environmental Accidents

Total number of calls received	2000+
Total number of incidents reported	654
Breakdown by accident type:	
Transport-related	101
Spills during product handling	78
Equipment failure	142
Miscellaneous	333

Public Health Program

The major goal of the department in the public health program area is to reduce the public's risk to disease and injury. The department, through its public health inspection staff and regulations under ***The Public Health Act***, carries out an extensive compliance and enforcement program in many areas that are directly linked to public health and safety. Public Health Inspectors work closely with Manitoba Health and the Medical Officers of Health in each of the Regional Health Authorities.

Major activities take place in the following program areas:

- food handling establishment inspection and compliance program
- investigation of foodborne illness reports and incidents
- swimming pool inspection and compliance program
- communicable disease investigations
- investigation of insanitary conditions, particularly in the area of housing
- inspection of care facilities
- response to issues associated with semi-public and private water supplies enforcement of the City of Winnipeg By-law respecting smoking in indoor public and work places

The Swimming Pools and Other Water Recreational Facilities Regulation under ***The Public Health Act*** underwent an amendment review this year which will further facilitate the protection of all those that use these facilities. The department is also reviewing and updating its current guidelines in the area of temporary food services, mobile food services and fairs and festivals to further enhance public health and safety through in the area of food services.

The department currently has 28 Public Health Inspectors including supervisory staff located in 11 regional and district offices throughout the province.

Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Program

The *Onsite Wastewater Management System Regulation* was passed on April 28, 2003. The regulation was fully implemented on October 28, 2003 and the corresponding fees from the *Environment Act Fees Regulation* also came into effect on that day. The Regulation forms an integral part of Manitoba's Water Strategy Initiative.

A committee comprised of technical experts from the Department was charged with implementing the new regulation over the summer of 2003. A program coordinator, assigned to Headquarters, assumed responsibility for the program in July, 2003. Two full time seasonal staff, located in Selkirk and Lac du Bonnet, were assigned dedicated responsibility to perform onsite wastewater management system inspections.

Program development over the past year has concentrated on:

- Development of a registration system for the approximately 1700 new onsite wastewater management systems installed in Manitoba every year;
- Development of a registration system for sewage haulers in Manitoba;
- Development of a certification system for Onsite Wastewater Management System installers, and facilitation of the Onsite Wastewater Management System Installers' course as offered by Red River Community College;
- Implementation packages distributed to 500 installers and 100 notifying them of changes to the regulation that will impact the industry;
- Two training sessions held for departmental staff regarding the *Onsite Wastewater Management System Regulation*;
- Five regional information workshops held for all sewage haulers and installers; and
- Information provided to various municipal and governmental agencies on the requirements of the new regulation.

The enforcement of the regulation is the primary responsibility of each of the regional offices. Environment Officers receive and review Onsite Wastewater Management System applications, ensuring Manitoba's Water Strategy Initiative is being sustained by addressing the construction and design criteria for each system through review of the application, site plan and soil assessment via percolation tests and sieve analysis.

Other Environmental Program Activities

- In support of the Industry, Economic Development and Mines initiative to address safety concerns associated with five identified Orphaned/Abandoned mines in Manitoba, Manitoba Conservation initiated site specific human health and environmental risk assessments at Cold Lake/Sheridon.
- Participated in the development of a departmental "Abandoned Rail Line" policy.
- Participated on the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited Public Liaison Committee for the decommissioning of the Whiteshell Laboratories.
- Participated on the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's Joint Review Process for the decommissioning of the Whiteshell Laboratories through the Manitoba Whiteshell Laboratories Decommissioning Technical Advisory Committee.
- Participated in the National Orphaned/Abandoned Mines Initiative through technical support on the Legal and Institutional Barriers to Collaboration Task Group and chairing of the Guideline Legislative Review Task Group.
- Participated on the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's Canadian Environmental Protection Act Review Subcommittee and the Soil Quality Guidelines Task Group.
- Participated on the Canadian Environmental Protection Act National Advisory Committee.

Enforcement

Enforcement policy/procedure provides a consistent approach, with emphasis on ensuring compliance with legislation. In addition to the summary below, a detailed report of enforcement activities is available in Public Registries throughout the Province. Tables RO.3 and RO.4 summarize environment-law compliance activity.

Table RO.3
Environmental Sector Enforcement

Legislation	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Orders	Fines($)
The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act			2	
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act	93	8	41	31,270.00
The Environment Act	46	102	32	28,927.00
The Public Health Act	4	43	22	1,213.00
Municipal By-laws		4		
Total	**143**	**157**	**97**	**61,410.00**

Table RO.4
Enforcement, by Act/Regulation

Legislation	Prosecutions	Fines ($)
Environment Act Litter and Peat Smoke Regulations	21	4,371.00
Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation	6	1,480.00
Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation	19	23,076.00
Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Regulation	88	28,992.00
DGH&T Act and Regulations	3	1,027.00
Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Products Regulation	2	1,251.00
PHA Food Handling and Building and Dwellings Regulations	4	1,213.00

Regional Support Services

The section expanded and improved the Operations Division intranet site with the addition of Guide Program information including exams and answer keys.

Initiated the development of enhanced legislation and operational procedures to assist in reducing disturbance incidents in Provincial Parks.

Provided amendments to *The Fisheries Act* to enhance our ability to curb illegal fishing and marketing of fish. Also assisted in the development of regulations under *The Resource Tourism Operators Act*.

Signed and implemented the Protocol on Delivery of an Enforcement and Compliance Program between Manitoba Conservation and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Interim strategies were developed to deal with field incidents arising from the Supreme Court decision relating to Metis harvesting rights.

Participated in the department committees reviewing the Auditor General's Report into the Hecla Island Land and Property Transactions and developing an on-line, Internet based printable angling licence system.

Developed and implemented a compliance strategy to deal with illegal permanent tree stands and blinds on Crown Lands.

Central Training was held in 2003/04 for 123 NRO's and 30 Assistant Resource Officers for re-certification in firearms, defensive tactics, enforcement procedure, and tactical communication.

Twenty-nine new Park Patrol Officers were recruited from across Canada and were certified to Department standards over 8 days in hospitality, tactical communications, defensive tactics, firearms, and legislation before being hired and assigned to various parks for 17 weeks of employment.

Fourteen new Assistant Resource Officers received basic training in Tactical Shotgun, Baton Deployment, and Officer Safety including Unknown Risk and High Risk Vehicle Stops/ Arrests.

Ten NRO recruits were given the Basic Sidearm Certification and Advanced Tactical Driving courses. Other courses delivered to Resource Officers were Tactical Driving Refresher, Train the Trainer, and Inland Water Transportation.

NRO trainers assisted in the development and delivery of a Basic Enforcement Course for Environment Officers.

Tables RO.5 to RO.9 summarize the resource-law compliance activity of the department's full-time and seasonal Resource Officer service.

Table RO.5
Common Violations under *The Provincial Parks Act*

Offence	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Total Offences	Evictions
No Park Vehicle Pass*	1,101	0	1,101	0
Cause Disturbance	92	202	294	503
Parking Violations*	166	0	166	0
Unlawful Vehicle Operation	35	47	82	5
Disobey Officer/Sign/Permit	23	33	56	6
Possess Fireworks	24	13	37	2
Fail to Control Pet / On Beach	15	21	36	0
Damage Pollute Park Property	15	21	36	5
Camp w/o Permit/Prohibited	16	10	26	3
Have Liquor Where Prohibited	15	7	22	31
Fail to Maintain Campsite	11	5	16	0
Fire w/o Permit/Unattended Fire	5	5	10	0
Other	5	5	10	1
Total	**1,523**	**369**	**1,892**	**556**

* Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass violations not reported in previous Annual Reports.

Table RO.6
Common Violations under *The Wildlife Act*

Offence	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Total Offences
Hunt Prohibited Area/Private Land W/O Permission	70	12	82
Hunt From or Have Loaded Firearm in Vehicle	64	1	65
Possess Illegally Taken Wildlife	43	2	45
Tagging / Transportation Infractions	31	12	43
Hunt or Discharge Firearm From Road	39	2	41
Hunt/Guide W/O Licence/ Licence Infractions	28	12	40
Night Hunting / Dangerous Hunting	16	2	18
Equipment Infractions	11	5	16
Bait Infractions	5	4	9
Abandon/Waste Game	4	2	6
Other	10	2	12
Total	**321**	**56**	**377**

Table RO.7
Common Violations under *Fisheries Act* (Canada), and *The Fisheries Act* (Manitoba)

Offence	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Total Offences
Equipment Infractions	330	61	391
Licence Infractions	102	144	246
Exceed Limits	136	24	160
Transportation Infractions	42	52	94
Live Bait Infractions	18	12	30
Fish During Closed Time / Closed Area	6	17	23
Wastage of Fish	10	4	14
Illegal Sale of Fish	7	4	11
Other	3	1	4
Total	**654**	**319**	**973**

Table RO.8
Comparison of Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks and Migratory Birds Prosecutions 1993-94 to 2003-04

Fiscal Year	Wildlife	Fisheries*	Parks	Migratory Birds
1993-94	874	898	253	18
1994-95	640	1,033	142	85
1995-96	395	741	185	18
1996-97	441	976	173	26
1997-98	421	846	171	9
1998-99	278	965	248	6
1999-00	337	833	219	36
2000-01	371	610	203	8
2001-02	379	674	227	8
2002-03	213	537	195	9
2003-04	321	654	1523**	15

*Includes all Fisheries Acts and Regulations found in Table RO.7

**Includes 1,267 Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass violations not recorded in previous years.

Table RO.9
Record of Violations Occurring 2003-2004

Acts	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Total Offences
Crown Lands	18	40	58
Forest	6	15	21
Fisheries (Canada)	528	153	681
Fisheries (Manitoba)	126	166	292
Highway Traffic	48	35	83
Liquor Control	337	34	371
Migratory Birds	15	6	21
Off Road Vehicle	23	11	34
Provincial Parks*	1,523	369	1,892
Wildfires	36	48	84
Wildlife	321	56	377
Water Rights	1	12	13
Total	2,982	945	3,927

Total Fines: $378,176.00 for 2003-04

*Includes $46,940.00 in Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass fines not recorded in previous years.

Hunter and Firearm Safety Training

Manitoba Wildlife Federation administers and delivers the Hunter and Firearm Safety Training Program. About 250 active instructors graduated 2,059 students.

Since the program began in 1964, a total of 140,311 students have been trained (Table RO.10). Table RO.11 shows firearm incident statistics, by five-year average since 1964. Table RO.12 provides statistics on firearm incidents and fatalities over the last 10 years. (*Non-hunting incidents* refer to incidents in the home, children playing with firearms, and the like).

Table RO.10

Hunter and Firearm Safety Program 1992-2003

Year	Students	Total to Date	Instructors Certified
1992	2,651	116,881	19
1993	2,685	119,566	41
1994	2,256	121,822	45
1995	2,381	124,203	18
1996	2,115	126,318	11
1997	2,101	128,419	8
1998	1,807	130,226	24
1999	2,068	132,006	15
2000	2,079	134,085	5
2001	1,976	136,061	4
2002	2191	138,252	7
2003	2,059	140,311	14

Table RO.11

Firearm Accidents, 1964-2003, 5-Year Averages

1964-68	64
1969-73	56
1974-78	54
1979-83	43
1984-88	26
1989-93	20
1994-98	9
1999-03	6

Table RO.12
Firearm Accidents 1992-2003

Year	Accidents			Fatalities		
	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total
1992	12	9	21	1	0	1
1993	5	8	13	0	0	0
1994	4	5	9	1	1	2
1995	9	6	15	0	0	0
1996	6	2	8	1	0	1
1997	2	6	8	0	2	2
1998	4	2	6	1	0	1
1999	10	5	15	3	1	4
2000	3	0	3	0	0	0
2001	6	0	6	3	0	3
2002	2	0	2	1	0	1
2003	4	0	4	1	0	1

Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation

The Program compensates livestock owners for animals deemed accidentally shot by licensed hunters during an open big game season. Claims are investigated by Natural Resource Officers and occasionally by the RCMP. This year, three claims qualified for compensation totalling $2,357.54. Program activity for the past ten years is illustrated in Table RO.13.

Table RO.13
Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation 1994-95 to 2003-04

Year Paid	Claims	Claims Paid	Total Paid	Average
1994-95	9	7	11,850.00	1,693
1995-96	3	2	4,265.00	2,132
1996-97	4	4	9,800.00	2,450
1997-98	2	2	2,250.00	1,125
1998-99	7	6	9,532.55	1,589
1999-00	9	6	5,670.00	945
2000-01	7	4	4,120.00	1,030
2001-02	6	5	5,033.65	1,007
2002-03	9	5	5,715.70	1,143
2003-04	3	3	2,357.54	786

Problem Wildlife Complaints

Polar Bear occurrences were up almost 65% from last year leading to one of the busiest years on record in Churchill. Black bear complaints were down approximately 17% from last years high, however, complaint levels are still creating significant control challenges for department staff. A summary of occurrences by region is presented in Table RO.14.

Table RO.14

Problem Wildlife Occurrences

Species	Region							
	NE	NW	E	I	W	RR	Total	% of Total
Beaver	2	5	60	33	41	70	211	5%
Black Bear	189	275	334	498	191	89	1576	38%
Polar Bear	343	0	0	0	0	0	343	9%
Big Game	4	2	0	80	188	58	332	8%
Wolf	20	1	12	11	25	19	88	2%
Migratory Birds	0	8	9	64	64	30	175	4%
Other	19	36	83	332	506	416	1392	34%
Total	577	327	498	1018	1015	682	4117	100%

Special Investigations Unit

Regional Investigators assisted various districts with complex investigations primarily related to illegal harvest and use of fish and wildlife. Assisted Northwest and Western Regions with coordinating a major investigation into the illegal harvest and marketing of walleye. Through successful covert operations, detected and prosecuted illegal commercial activity relating to fish sales in Winnipeg area. One staff vacancy existed for most of the year at Gimli.

Turn-in-Poachers and Report Forest Fires Line (T.I.P.)

The toll-free telephone service (1-800-782-0076) which is aimed at reducing the illegal harvest of fish and wildlife received 406 calls resulting in 37 prosecutions and 2 warnings. In addition, the toll-free line received 124 calls reporting forest fires.

Table RO.15

T.I.P. Calls by Region

Region	Number of Calls					Number of Charges			
	Fish	Wildlife	Other	Fire	Total	Fish	Wildlife	Other	Total
Red River	14	99	2	4	119	4	8	1	13
Interlake	31	81	1	9	122	16	4	0	20
Western	13	90	0	15	118	0	4	0	4
Eastern	8	46	2	40	96	0	0	0	0
Northwest	7	8	1	23	39	0	0	0	0
Northeast	2	1	0	33	36	0	0	0	0
Total	75	325	6	124	530	20	16	1	37

Table RO.16
T.I.P. Calls by Year 1995-96 to 2003-04

	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
Calls Received	904	714	640	695	758	568	569	485	406
For Information Calls	91	41	39	24	28	23	18	31	19
Actioned	296	316	302	298	321	204	230	218	235
Prosecutions	156	68	74	74	70	59	40	30	37
Warnings	14	11	16	12	23	37	12	8	2

Wildfire Investigation

Fire investigators investigated 61 man caused fires resulting in eighteen charges and provided support for numerous fire cost recovery chargeback fires. Trained eleven existing wildfire investigators to the "trainer" standard for providing our own Departmental Wildfire & Arson Investigation training.

Canine Program

Conservation detector dog "Jake" a Belgian Malanois performed very well in his first full year being used in 178 instances during the year. Jake was worked on a variety of things including; assisting with roadside check stations, searching for evidence involving instances of illegal fishing and hunting, tracking individuals who fled from officers and assisted other agencies with such things as searching for lost persons. Continued public education programs were conducted in schools and public meetings.

Table RO.17
12.3(a) Headquarters Operations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,504.1	50.50	2,739.6	(235.5)	
Other Expenditures	1,382.3		912.9	469.4	
Problem Wildlife Control	281.2		365.6	(84.4)	
Total Other Expenditures	1,663.5		1,278.5	385.0	

Northwest Region

The Region administers programs and services for the following areas: Crown lands, Provincial Parks, environment, wildlife, forestry, public health, and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery, and evaluation of programs and services, and inspection, compliance, monitoring, and enforcement of environment, resources, and health legislation. The region has also developed an Intranet information regional web page that includes a map and locations of our services in the Northwest Region.

Programs and services are provided by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in The Pas, and District Offices at The Pas, Cranberry Portage, Flin Flon, Grand Rapids, and Snow Lake, and Sub-District Offices at Sherridon, Moose Lake, and Cormorant.

Enforcement

Public Health Inspectors/Environment Officers conducted 120 Inspections to ensure compliance with the various Acts and Regulations, and responded to 78 public complaints. This resulted in 6 enforcement actions under ***The Public Health Act*** and ***The Environment Act***.

Natural Resource Officers conducted patrols to ensure compliance with the various Acts and Regulations. This resulted in 302 enforcement actions, (206 charges, 96 warnings and 2 evictions). Officers responded to 570 Occurrence Reports, of which 327 were problem wildlife, 176 regulatory and 67 non-regulatory in nature. Officers checked 642 licensed hunters, 187 subsistence hunters, 3417 anglers, 735 commercial fisher nets, 74 domestic fisher nets, and setup 7 roadside check stations. Staff also conducted 184 timber inspections on 82 blocks within the Tolko Harvest areas.

Environment

- Completed the co-location plan in The Pas Regional office.
- Assisted utility owners in upgrading the Valleyview Trailer Court and Cormorant water treatment plants.
- Completion and start-up of the Easterville Sewage Lagoon.
- Implemented the Environmental Management System (EMS) software in the region.

Forestry

- The Northwest Region's approved harvest in 2004 is approximately 695,330 m^3. This volume has increased over last year's projection. In addition to this volume, the Chemawawin partnership agreement operation will contribute about 70,000 m^3 from FMU's 46 and 47.
- There were ongoing discussions aimed at closing the Egg Lake Road.
- Continued to work with Tolko and other local businesses on the utilization of small diameter wood.
- Continued discussion on the future of other forestry roads that are eligible for closure.
- Planted 84,000 trees.
- Forestry Surveys as follows: Natural Regen.-98.7 Ha, Plantation surveys-113 Ha, Free to Grow surveys-313.9 Ha.
- Participated in Tolko's CSA certification committee, Tolko Forest Resource Advisory Committee (FRAC) and Snow Lake FRAC

Lands

- Administered 19 new general permit requests and 14 new sale requests. Ongoing renewal and maintenance of 540 existing general permits, 80 miscellaneous leases, 162 wild rice licenses, 156 vacation home permits and 21 leases. Three sales were completed through Order in Council for the Northwest Region.
- Worked with client groups on cottaging (e.g.: LUD of Cranberry Portage, Town of Snow Lake), TLE and Wuskwatim Transmission Line proposal with Opaskwayak Cree Nation and numerous other clients in agriculture, commercial fishing, trapping, wild rice and forestry operations.

- Identified approximately 34 Crown land cottage lots for June/04 public draw. Working on survey of additional lots at Rocky Lake, Athapap and Wekusko for 2005 public draw.
- Worked with other branch representatives on resource road initiatives, riparian zone management and other forestry operations.
- Continue to act as a regional information source for the general public and other government departments on Crown land information in the Northwest Region.

Parks

- Constructed 24 new campsites at Campers Cove and Gyles campgrounds in Clearwater Lake Provincial Park.
- Completed installation of three solar powered potable water treatment systems.
- Installed trailer dump stations throughout Grass River Provincial Park.
- Completed necessary review of the Cuprus Sewage Lagoon facility, rejected expansion and negotiated a partnership with the city of Flin Flon.
- All landfills are now staffed when open to the public.

Wildlife

- Participated with the Interlake Region in a Wood Bison range assessment in north Interlake area.
- Completed DNA sampling of Woodland Caribou in North Interlake in support of the Lowland National Park Boundary Review.
- Finalized draft agreement between Opaskwayak Cree Nation and Manitoba Conservation for joint management of resources.
- Continuing to develop partnerships with First Nations & stakeholders groups concerning Cumberland Delta Moose Management Committee and Saskatchewan River Sturgeon Management Board, Cormorant Resource Management Board and newly formed Cedar Lake Resource Management Board and Rocky Creek (Reader-Root Eco-system) Water Management Committee.
- A Bear Management Plan was developed through consultation with the Town of Snow Lake.

Fire Program

- The Region received below average snowfall which resulted in low water levels and an early start to the fire season.
- The first man caused fire occurred on April 8, 2003 and the first lightning fire started on May 17.
    - Total fires for the season were 123, of which 73 were lightning caused and 50 man caused.

  194.4 hectares were burnt, with the largest fire being 30 hectares. This low number can be attributed to an aggressive man-up strategy and successful initial attacks.

Table RO.18

12.3(b) Northwest Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,149.7	42.15	2,125.0	24.7	
Total Other Expenditures	743.8		748.6	(4.8)	

Northeast Region

The Northeast Region administers programs and services for the following areas: Crown lands, Provincial Parks, wildlife, forestry, environmental stewardship, public health, and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery and evaluation of programs and services, and inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of environment, resources and health legislation. This is done by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in Thompson, District offices in Churchill, Gillam, Thompson, Wabowden, Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Norway House, Island Lake, and Gods Narrows, and sub-District offices in Split Lake, Nelson House, Pukatawagan, South Indian Lake, Cross Lake, and Oxford House.

The Region continued support of, and participation on, Nelson House, Split Lake, York Factory, and Norway House Resource Management Boards, Nelson River Sturgeon Co-Management Board, Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board and Wapusk National Park Management Board.

Regional staff participated on the Regional Waste Management Reduction Steering Committee and the Northern Waste Committee and worked closely with North Central Development Corporation to assist in addressing solid waste management issues and promoting recycling programs in northern Manitoba.

The Integrated Resource Management Team met regularly to evaluate and provide recommendations for Crown land applications, resource-based tourism applications, annual timber harvesting and renewal plans, Environment Act proposals, Treaty Land Entitlement selections and other related land or resource plans.

Enforcement

- Natural Resource Officers checked 1877 anglers, 512 hunters (401 big game, 63 migratory bird, 48 upland gamebird), and 62 commercial fishermen.
- Staff inspected timber operations and most remote lodges, outcamps and tent-camp sites, and monitored campers and day-users in Parks, resulting in 45 Prosecutions, 71 Warnings and 20 Evictions.
- 353 Timber Permits, 233 Work Permits, 60 Burning Permits, and 44General Fishing Permits were issued through District Offices.
- Environment Officers/Public Health Inspectors inspected rental accommodations, commercial food establishments, wastewater facilities, waste disposal grounds and contaminated soil remediation sites. Three orders and five warnings were issued under *The Public Health Act*. Two orders and two warnings were issued under *The Environment Act*.

Forestry

- Tolko Manitoba continued to be the primary timber company operating in the Northeast Region harvesting approximately 300,000 cubic metres.
- There were also two Quota Holders and five Timber Sales active within the region.
- Tolko and Manitoba Conservation planted approximately 2200 hectares with 3,620,000 trees. Manitoba Conservation facilitated five community tree plants in the spring of 2003.
- Forestry staff worked with the Marcel Colomb First Nation, the Kinosao Sipi Development Corporation (Norway House First Nation), and Nelson House Forest Industries (Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation), and participated at meetings with representatives of the Swampy Cree Tribal Council and the Island Lake Tribal Council concerning timber harvesting opportunities. This is part of the Region's objective of promoting sustainable commercial timber harvesting opportunities in northern communities to enhance employment and economic development.

Fire Management

- Delivered the regional fire prevention, detection and suppression program in the Northeast Region.
- The 2003 fire season ranked as the second busiest on record for the region, with a total of 592 fires burning an estimated 364,000 hectares of forested land.
- Lightening was the cause of 363 fires and 229 fires were the result of human activity. Suppression action was taken on 499 fires.

- The first fire was reported on May 11 and the last September 15; during this 127-day stretch there were only 17 days when a new fire was not recorded.
- Persistently high fire danger values and new fire starts across the Region required maintaining above normal preparedness levels (manpower and aircraft) for extended periods.
- Suppression efforts were assisted through the import of additional fire crews from Ontario and British Colombia and air tanker support from Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and Northwest Territories. The additional personnel and air support enabled the Region to maintain a high level of initial attack capability allowing most fires to be brought under control at a small size. Suppression action was focused on higher priority areas resulting in a number of fires in unoccupied territory and areas of limited forestry values not being actioned; these fires accounted for 84% of the areas burned.
- The most significant fire was located approximately 20 kilometers north of Thompson, which at its peak was being worked by 400 firefighters and support personnel and 10 helicopters. This fire began in July and burned well into the fall with a final size of approximately 45,000 hectares.

Parks

- Upgrades were made on the water treatment plant and the main shower building at Paint Lake Provincial Park. Also the second phase of the campsite electrification program was done.
- A feasibility study was initiated to evaluate the tourism potential of the Churchill Rocket Range and other sites in its vicinity and to assess a change in the land designation, with consideration being given to a provincial park designation. A consultant was contracted to undertake the study. The first phase was completed in the 2003/04; the second and final phase will be completed in 2004/05.

Wildlife

- Delivered the annual Polar Bear Alert Program at Churchill. The Program handled 176 animals and there were 347 occurrences of bears recorded in the Program area. No serious human/bear conflicts occurred. The high numbers of animals handled and occurrences recorded were primarily the result of a longer "problem season", and continues a trend seen in recent years.
- Between 1983 and 1995 the average number of bears captured and occurrences recorded per year was 46.2 and 114.5; between 1996 and 2003 the average has been 113.8 and 199.2 respectively. Despite this trend the Alert Program has continued to meet its primary objectives of protecting people from injury and property from damage by polar bears; however the costs to deliver this highly successful program have increased significantly. This has resulted in the Region initiating a review of the policy, procedures and guidelines governing the Program as it is speculated the trend observed since 1996 will in fact continue as the norm for the foreseeable future.
- Non-resident black bear (594), moose (158) and caribou (340) licences were allocated to lodges and outfitters across the Region. Most operators reported a successful year for all species.
- Tourism excursions in the Churchill Wildlife Management Area continued, with the majority of activity directed at polar bear viewing between September and November. One operator was granted an extension to test market the demand for northern lights viewing at Churchill between January and March.
- Fur production for most species was up for the 2003 season, prices were higher and more trappers were out on their traplines. The Fur Table in Thompson was again a success with a total of 347 trappers and $495,000 worth of fur being sold. Trapping continues to be a significant and important activity to many people in northern Manitoba.

Lands

- Mineral exploration activities regulated by Work Permits issued under the Crown Lands Act continued across much of the Region in the winter. Geophysics and drilling activities for base metals and diamonds occurred in the Lynn Lake, Wabowden, Thompson, Gillam, Island Lake and Gods Lake Narrows Districts'.
- Staff worked closely with the Department of Transportation and Government Services to address problems with winter roads. Environment Licences were monitored for two new winter roads. Winter roads serve 16 communities within the Region.

- Staff worked closely with Manitoba Hydro's Mitigation Department on debris clearing and shoreline stabilization projects related to the Northern Flood Agreement.
- The Treaty Land Entitlement process continued. Fourteen First Nations included in the *TLE Framework Agreement* are in the Region; all 14 First Nations have made or are in the process of making land selections.

Table RO.19

12.3(c) Northeast Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,285.7	48.88	2,468.2	(182.5)	
Total Other Expenditures	944.0		948.6	(4.6)	

Interlake Region

The Interlake Region delivers programs and services in the following program areas: wildlife, fisheries, forestry, crown lands, provincial parks, environmental protection, and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery and evaluation of programs and services, and inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of environment, natural resource and health legislation. This is done by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in Gimli and District Offices in Ashern, Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Gypsumville, Hodgson, Lundar, Riverton, Selkirk, and Winnipeg Beach.

Enforcement

- 2396 Occurrence Reports were received, of which 1018 were about problem wildlife. The remainder, 1378 calls, were for regulatory and non-regulatory issues in areas such as parks, fishing, hunting and crown lands.
- 1082 enforcement actions resulted in 672 charges, 243 Warnings, and 167 evictions from Parks. 155 of the charges were under *The Manitoba Fisheries Regulation*, 209 were under ***The Liquor Control Act*** and 107 under ***The Provincial Parks Act***. The courts assessed approximately $91,000 in fines and costs.

Environment

- Interlake Region continues to work with municipalities on solid waste management by ensuring closure of unacceptable waste disposal sites and developing proper sites or converting to waste transfer stations. Staff continue to work toward the closure of the last of the liquid waste pits in the region and to work with municipalities to speed construction of engineered sewage lagoons or other treatment facilities to properly treat sewage wastes. Staff are also working with municipalities to ensure that existing sewage treatment facilities are upgraded when required or that new facilities are constructed.
- A staff person has been hired to administer the new onsite wastewater regulation. This regulation, once fully implemented, should help reduce the number of septic system failures in the region and protect ground and surface waters.
- Staff continued work with livestock producers to ensure compliance with regulations. A new regulation is in place and an Environment Officer was assigned to focus on livestock issues. The new regulation applies to livestock operations and manure storage facilities to further enhance protection of groundwater and surface water resources.
- Interlake regional environment staff monitored and inspected approximately 2400 sites including, but not limited to, gas stations, restaurants, public water supplies, private sewage systems, waste disposal sites and livestock facilities.

Fire Program

- The Interlake Region had a total of 211 fires during the 2003 fire season. Of these, 8 were caused by lightning and 203 were human-caused. With below average snowfall and below normal ground moisture levels, conditions in the spring were dry, raising concerns about serious wildfires.
- The first fire was on April 14th in the Gypsumville district. This district had the most activity with 154 fires.
- Several municipal fire departments were kept busy having to contend with wildfires. Many of the staff from the Interlake Region assisted the Northeast Region for extended periods of time. The Interlake Region continues to have a problem with human-caused fires and the long-term goal is to reduce the number of fires through prevention and education programs.

Forestry

- In general, the volume harvested in the Interlake this year has increased compared to the last couple of years with less quota holders active but greater volumes being harvested by those who were active.
- Due to very warm and dry conditions throughout the region, there was very little harvest activity during the fire season (April to October).
- In the first year of auctions, the region put up 4 blocks of Trembling Aspen (2 summer, 2 winter) of which 3 were successfully bid and harvested, the other received no bids.
- Demand for both softwood and hardwood, both in-province and from the U.S. and Ontario, remained strong.
- Tembec successfully began a large salvage project of blown down pine and spruce off the Dancing Point Road and for the first time, contracted an in-bush mobile chipper to utilize the blown down softwood. The saw log material was slashed out and sent to sawmills in both The Pas and a local sawmill in Arborg with the remainder of the volume being chipped in-bush and delivered to Tembec's pulp and paper facility in Pine Falls.

Forest renewal activities included tree planting, mechanical scarification and chemical treatment as shown in Table RO.21

Table RO.20
Timber Harvest, Interlake Region (m^3)

	FMU40	FMU 41	FMU 43	FMU 45	FMU 46	PERMITS	TOTAL
Softwood	3,007	5,100	0	13,200	14,880	2,386	38,573
Hardwood	2,043	5,765	1,777	0	0	2,691	12,276
Total	5,050	10,865	1,777	13,200	14,880	5,077	50,849

Table RO.21
Forest Renewal, Interlake Region

Area Renewed (ha)	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Planted	362.9	311.4	137.4	116.8	98.2
Scarified	10.5	10.0	0.0	0	39
Trees planted	925,400	844,644	371,950	213,480	255,200
Site prepared* (ha)	255.3	88.0	0.0	0	187
Plantation area chemically released (ha)	0	36.7	270.0	0	7.2

*prepared for planting the following year.

Lands

- Staff assessed about 120 applications for Crown Lands, including general permits, work permits, leases, sales, appeals, exchanges and quarry leases.
- The Region received 140 applications for crown quarry permits, 2 new snowmobile trail proposals, 40 resource-based tourism facility applications, 20 policy and planning reviews, 120 private land subdivisions, 128 water rights license applications, 65 operational land use code amendments, 15 municipal planning reviews/By-law Amendments and 3 ***Environment Act*** License proposals.
- Treaty Land Entitlement activities included a review of tentative land selections for Peguis First Nation.
- Potential camping and cottaging opportunities in the Interlake and Red River Regions were identified.

Parks

- The Winnipeg Folk Festival at Birds Hill Provincial Park drew over 40,000 patrons in 2003. Grand Beach had an estimated 175,000 vehicles enter the park, a 32% increase from the previous year. Birds Hill also had an increase in vehicle traffic, approximately 274,000, up 18%. Hecla Provincial Park had a slight decrease in vehicle traffic, approximately 35,000, down 1%.
- In response to public safety concerns, measures to address rowdyism and other park safety and security issues were addressed at Grand Beach and other problem areas.
- The region participated in the development of the Interlake Beach Safety Program manual.
- Capital projects included an addition of washrooms and a waiting area to the Birds Hill stable facility. The small business kiosk at Grand Beach was completed.
- Phase 1 of the community consultation regarding the Chitek Lake Park Reserve was completed. Phase 2 of the consultation process is scheduled for June 2004.
- There were 200 special events hosted in the parks with over half of these occurring at Birds Hill Provincial Park.

Wildlife

- The popularity of the Narcisse Snake Dens continues to increase. More visitors tour the dens each spring to view the snake emergence and spectacular mating rituals. The 12 snake tunnels recently constructed underneath PTH 17 continue to work well and have substantially reduced snake mortality.
- The Chitek Lake Wood Bison herd continues to grow and is now estimated at about 200 animals. A bison habitat assessment study was initiated in July 2003 and helped identify potential bison range in the area north and west of Chitek Lake, along the Lake Winnipegosis shoreline.
- A biological inventory was initiated in the Fish Lake bog area northwest of Gimli in late summer 2003 to identify leopard frog wintering sites, numerous plant and animal species and unique wetland habitats.
- A Piping Plover conservation project was initiated at a Riverton Sandy Bar, to help protect nesting sites for this rare and endangered species.

Table RO.22
12.3(d) Interlake Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,131.7	63.64	3,106.8	24.9	
Total Other Expenditures	1,127.1		1,205.8	(78.7)	

Eastern Region

The Eastern Region administers programs and services for the following areas; Crown lands, provincial parks, environmental stewardship, wildlife, forestry, public health, and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery and evaluation of programs and services, and inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of environment, resources and health legislation. This is done by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office at Lac du Bonnet and District Offices at Beausejour, Bissett, Falcon Lake, Hadashville, Lac du Bonnet, Lake Winnipeg East, Pine Falls, Rennie, Seven Sisters, Sprague, Piney, and West Hawk Lake, and Sub-District Offices at Berens River and Little Grand Rapids.

Enforcement

- Out of a total of 2,131 Occurrence Reports, 513 were problem wildlife (61 beaver, 334 black bear, 13 wolf, 9 migratory birds, 96 other), 954 were regulatory, and 664 were non-regulatory.
- 2,747 hunters were checked resulting in 49 charges and 10 warnings. There were 82 charges, 177 warnings and 291 evictions under *The Provincial Parks Act* and Regulations.

Forestry

- Monitoring and reconciling Tembec's Annual Operating and Renewal Plans with their field operation continue to be a major activity. Within the FML approximately 106,100 square meters of timber was harvested. Forest renewal activities on 1,500 hectares included the planting of 1.3 million trees.
- Outside the FML, staff managed the harvest of 245,000 square meters of timber and planted 1.8 million seedlings.
- Regional staff continue to participate in the Manitoba Model Forest (MBMF) program. MBMF was created in 1992 through a partnership agreement with interested groups looking to support innovative sustainable forest management programs. The focus of the MBMF is to bring forest stakeholders and First Nation communities together to work towards a common understanding of ecosystem based processes and sustainable development.

Parks

- Vehicle counts were up by approximately 11% in provincial parks and campground use up by approximately 14%.
- The Whiteshell Ambulance Service also experienced a busy year with a total of 119 calls and 60 people transported to Hospital.
- The volunteer South East Whiteshell Fire Department completed a new Fire Hall at Falcon Lake. This facility will become a satellite operation for the Fire Department to cover the Falcon Lake area.
- Park facility upgrading continued throughout the Region with the completion of a new public potable water system for the community of West Hawk, a feasibility study to upgrade the West Hawk sewage lagoon, a lakefront lighted boardwalk at Falcon Lake and trail development continued on the North and South Whiteshell trails, both part of the Trans Canada Trail.

Wildlife

Two major stakeholder and First Nation co-operative management committees continued:

- The Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee completed a new video entitled "Shadows of the Forest - Managing Woodland Caribou". The video has been widely distributed, along with the committee's inaugural issue of their new newsletter, entitled "Atik News". Monitoring of GPS and VHF - equipped caribou continued and a winter track survey was carried out. Elders and students from the community of Bloodvein participated in a project that was designed to learn about the community's traditional ecological knowledge of woodland caribou.

- The Committee for Moose Management continued to work with First Nation communities, fish and wildlife clubs and the scientific community to conduct moose surveys to assess the effects of access and hunting restrictions on moose populations. Another major area of focus was the development of a "managed moose hunting system" that would apply to all people.

- Staff continue to service a full range of clients, including First Nations, trappers, hunters, outfitters, the forest industry, non-government organizations, wildlife associations, communities and individual requests.

Environment/Public Health

- Eastern Region environmental operations acquired a departmental position dedicated to the Onsite Wastewater Management Systems program, which is responsible for reviewing applications, conducting inspections and responding to complaints to ensure compliance with the Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation.
- Regional staff has also been actively involved in educating the public, cottage associations, industry and local governments on the requirements of the regulation.
- The public health program continues to provide voluntary certification training to food handlers in the Eastern Region. Forty-five food handlers received certification in the 2003/2004 fiscal year.

Table RO.23

12.3(e) Eastern Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	**Actual 2003/04 $**	**Estimate 2003/04 FTE**	**Estimate 2003/04 $**	**Variance Over/(Under)**	**Expl. No.**
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,149.6	68.72	3,288.4	(138.8)	
Total Other Expenditures	896.9		905.6	(8.7)	

Western Region

The Region administers programs and services for the following areas: Crown lands, provincial parks, environment, wildlife, forestry, public health, and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery and evaluation of programs and services, and inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of environment, resources and health legislation. This is done by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in Brandon, Sub-regional Offices in Dauphin and Swan River, and District Offices at Brandon, Dauphin, Boissevain, Carberry, Grandview, Killarney, Mafeking, McCreary, Neepawa, Roblin, Shoal Lake, Swan River, Virden, and Winnipegosis.

Enforcement

- Resource Officers continued work with livestock producers to reduce numbers of livestock injured or killed by wildlife.
- There were 2350 Occurrence Reports of which, 1015 for problem wildlife (41 Beaver, 191 Black Bear, 188 Big Game, 25 Coyote, 64 Migratory Birds, 506 other), 922 were regulatory (178 Parks, 463 Wildlife, 21 Commercial Fish, 23 Sport Fish, 26 Crown Lands, 9 Forestry, 47 Water Rights, 155 Other) and 413 non-regulatory (60 Parks, 164 Wildlife, 69 Roadkills, 10 Sport Fish, 6 Crown Lands, 3 Forestry, 26 Water Rights).
- Wildlife checks resulted in Officers checking 4032 deer, 409 moose, 1356 elk, 90 bear, 142 upland game bird and 571 waterfowl hunters. 41 lodges/outfitters, 78 trappers, 279 Treaty Indian hunters, 2 fur dealers, and 24 taxidermists/animal parts dealers were also checked.
- Officers checked 4007 recreational anglers, 162 commercial fishers, 267 domestic fishers, 1 Treaty Indian fisher and 422 nets. The Region made 57 off-road vehicle checks.
- Resource Officers spent 442 staff hours between April 15 to April 29, 2004 enforcing the spring conservation closure of Lake Dauphin and tributaries.
- Forestry checks resulted in Officers checking 452 timber sales/operations, 283 timber permits, 7 sawmills/planers, 22 load slips and 1 trespass operation.

Fire Program

- There were 40 fires with the region (28 human caused 12 lightning caused). Of this number, 2 were major fires, burning some 3700 hectares. Charges were laid on 7 of these fires.
- There was an increased effort to reduce the number of man caused fires, which included school presentations, high visibility enforcement patrols and aggressive fire investigation. Two individuals were charged with negligent type violations by allowing fires to spread. Three individuals have been charged with deliberate arson type violations.
- There were 85 Emergency Fire Fighters trained and 23 crew leaders trained.

Forestry

- 94 Work Permits were issued for timber harvest on 214 harvest blocks and 22 work permits were issued for renewal related activity in the Mountain Forest Section.
- Staff participated on technical committees for establishment of protected areas in the Porcupine Provincial Forest, Swan Lake Basin Watershed Plan and the Valley River Watershed Board.
- Staff assisted with the Provincial Manitoba Envirothon competition held in the Duck Mountain Forest Center.
- Staff played a key role in the development and implementation of chipperwood measurement procedures for the Chipperwood trial with Spruce Products Limited.
- Staff were instrumental in consideration of an Ecological Reserve proposal for the Armit Meadows in the Porcupine Provincial Forest.
- In cooperation with communities of Barrows and Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, Forestry staff completed collection of White Spruce Cone and Black Spruce Cone in seed zones 4 and 11 (in Porcupine Provincial Forest and near Red Deer Lake).

- In conjunction with Forestry Branch, staff administered delivery of public auctions for 40,000 cubic metres of softwood auctions in FMU # 14 (Porcupines Provincial Forest). Spruce Products Limited was the successful bidder. Eleven blocks (45,900m3) of fire killed timber were offered through public auction. Prairie Forest Products was the sole bidder for one block (11,000m3).

Parks

- Total transient camping numbers for the region were up by 11% in 2003 over 2002. Seasonal use was consistent with 2002 and the Park Reservation Service increased.
- Selected campsites at Sprucewoods, Rainbow Beach, Asessippi, Lake Adam and Lake William were converted to meet Manitoba Park standards for handicapped sites.
- In 2003 the former Criddle Property was given Provincial Park designation.
- Staff, in conjunction with the local snowmobile associations, worked towards establishing a system of Snowman trails in the Duck Mountains.
- Inspections and modifications were conducted on several regional park playground equipment to meet Canadian Guidelines.
- Waterfront risk assessments were completed on park beaches in the region.
- Back-tier cottage lots at Wellman Lake were available on first come first served basis in 2003, with 7 lots taken over the season.

Wildlife

- The Bears and Bees project in Ethelbert area continues. Six outfitters maintain 20 electric fences around chronic beeyard depredation sites. Nuisance bear harvest is significantly reduced and no fences were breached by bears.
- Expanded Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance was conducted in the white-tailed deer population of the extreme west and the border area adjacent to North Dakota and Minnesota. 650 deer heads were collected from hunters at checkstations in Roblin, Russell, Birtle, Virden, Melita, Killarney, Boissevain and Manitou with no positive samples.
- Winter Beaver Program was successful and welcomed by rural municipalities and registered trappers.
- A new predator control program was initiated in co-operation with Manitoba Crop Insurance and Manitoba Trappers Association to assist cattle producers. There were three chronic problem areas near Dauphin, Birtle and Neepawa areas. Over 130 complaints were actioned by trappers.
- Peregrine Falcons returned to the MacKenzie Seeds building to nest for their eighth consecutive year. An additional pair of Peregrine Falcons have nested at the Brandon Mental Health Centre grounds this spring.
- Completed a technical report on wildlife populations and habitats within the Swan Lake Watershed for consideration by the Round Table in the development of a management plan for the Swan Lake Basin.
- Staff continued to deliver field implementation of a Bovine TB eradication strategy developed by the TB Task group, comprised of Parks Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Manitoba Agriculture and Food and Manitoba Conservation. This initiative has included a barrier fencing program (57 fences were installed using aboriginal contractors) expanded hunting seasons, enhanced "no baiting" regulations, and increased sampling of elk and white-tailed deer in the Riding Mountain TB eradication zone. Western Region staff collected 226 deer samples from periphery of Riding Mountain National Park.
- Co-management initiatives with First Nations are being explored to manage moose in a sustainable manner.
- Planning is underway with the Whitewater Lake Important Bird Area Committee for the second Whitewater Lake Wildlife Management Area bird festival. Success of the first festival combined with visitation by tourists from around the world has raised the profile of Whitewater Lake as a destination for birding.
- Co-operation continued with local landowners in the grazing demonstration projects on the Ebor and Willen Unit Wildlife Management Areas.
- Accommodated local agricultural producers in southwest portion of the region by providing access to Wildlife Management Areas and wildlife coded Crown lands for emergency hay and grazing in summer of 2003.
- Staff continued involvement in Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Demonstration Project in co-operation with agencies including: Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Ducks Unlimited, Conservation Districts, and Manitoba Agriculture and Food, as well as several cattle producers. Co-ordinated through the Critical Wildlife

Habitat Program, this project is aimed at promoting preservation and proper grazing management of mixed-grass prairie.

Lands

- Participated in the Western Region's final selection of lands for the Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) which was revised and submitted.
- A preliminary site selection list for the proposed regional recreational lot expansion program was completed. Existing lots have been advertised on the Internet/Intranet, lots are available for summer 2004 at George Lake, Lake of the Prairies, Wellman Lake, and Red Deer River.
- Additional new subdivisions within the Western Region are being developed for possible fall 2004 draw.
- Crown land sale applications, general permits, Licensing Advisory Committee circulars and subdivision reviews continued throughout the year.
- A final exchange of Crown and municipal lands was initiated in an effort to complete the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest expansion. Work is still proceeding on exchanges in this area.

Environment/Public Health

- The Department established an interim arrangement between the Town of Neepawa, Water Services and Springhill Farms, to manage the liquid waste disposal until the construction of the liquid wastewater treatment facility has been upgraded.
- A new regional Class 1 landfill facility in the Rural Municipality of Odanah is scheduled to open early in 2004. The co-operation between several municipalities and communities in the Minnedosa, Neepawa and Carberry area will serve as a model for sustainable waste management practices.
- Responded to 7 environmental incidents.
- Staff will co-ordinate the delivery of the swimming-beach monitoring program, and monitor lakes with blue-green algae advisories.
- Foodsafe continues to be delivered by PHI/EO's at Assiniboine Community College, Virden, Minnedosa and Hamiota with approximately 250 food handlers becoming certified.

Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation

- Spring and fall inspections were conducted on anhydrous ammonia transportation and handling vehicles. Several warnings were issued.
- Conducted an investigation into the illegal use of Carbofuran insecticide (Furadan) to control nuisance wildlife near Ethelbert.

Environmental Livestock Program

- 56 enforcement actions were issued; 7 new permits were issued for the construction, expansion or modification of manure storage facilities; 36 construction inspections and 101 inspections made of existing manure storage facilities; 11 technical review reports were made on new or expanding livestock operations.

Table RO.24

12.3(f) Western Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,484.5	90.39	4,441.5	43.0	
Total Other Expenditures	1,533.6		1,551.0	(17.4)	

Red River Region

The Red River Region is comprised primarily of urban and agricultural land uses. Although the region still contains some limited natural, undeveloped areas, the majority of the land base has been significantly altered by human occupation. The focus of the work undertaken by Red River Region staff is often somewhat different than the other regions in the Regional Operations Division.

The formation of the Department of Water Stewardship in late 2003 resulted in the transfer of two major programs to the new department, the Drainage and Drinking Water programs. This transfer did not significantly affect the ability of the region in the delivery of other programs, as staff that were responsible for the Drainage and Drinking Water Programs were also transferred.

Approximately 60% of Manitoba population resides in the Red River Region. In addition to the large number of light and heavy industrial operations located in the region, agricultural industry such as livestock operations also play a major economic role. Major programs associated with the above described activities administered by the region include Public Health, Environment Act and Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act, Contaminated Sites, Petroleum Storage, On-Site Wastewater, Solid Waste Management, and Livestock Operations. The Red River Region also administers programs and services for the following areas: wildlife, forestry, and Provincial Parks. It should be noted that the St. Malo Provincial Park in the region is the third busiest park in the province in terms of visitors per night.

The Red River Region maintains six district offices throughout the region.

District Activities

- Approximately 1600 Occurrence Reports were received, of which approximately 700 calls were abou problem wildlife and about 480 required enforcement actions. The remainder, about 420 calls, was for fire suppression and other non-enforcement resource management issues.
- Natural Resource Officer Time Distribution in Red River Region:

	% of Time
Problem Wildlife	25.6%
Black Bear	16.1%
Big Game	8.6%
Beaver	10.4%
Migratory Birds	39.0%
Other	100%
Regulatory	55.3%
Wildlife	3.6%
Commercial Fisheries	23.5%
Parks	9.5%
Sport Fisheries	8.1%
Other (water, fires, lands, etc.)	100%

- Natural Resource Officers spent 31.7% of their time on regulatory activities, 38.5% on resou management, fires and other community services, 21.0% was spent on administration, 5.4% on offi development/training and 3.4% on problem wildlife.
- Environmental Health Officers were involved in a number of housing issues throughout the region. Activi include inspections, issuing of orders and placarding (condemning) of dwellings. Recent dramatic increase the raiding of illegal marijuana grow operations by the police, in the City of Winnipeg, also places hea demand for inspection and placarding of the dwellings involved in these operations.
- Environmental Health Officers have participated in the successful implementation and enforcement of new City of Winnipeg Smoking By-law, and also participated with the Winnipeg Health Authority

investigating the source of an outbreak of Hepatitis A, which struck 18 patrons of a popular Winnipeg eatery.

- The region reviewed and issued 60 new permits for the construction of manure storage facilities at livestock operations. All steel manure storage facilities were inspected to ascertain storage integrity. 20 Director Orders were issued to various livestock operation requiring investigation and remediation work.
- In response to the BSE (Mad Cow Disease) concern, staff participated in the Intergovernmental Committee on Deadstock and Butcher Waste Disposal; and developed a list of waste disposal sites for the disposal of animal/livestock waste, and an operation guideline for the disposal of beef carcass in the ground.
- Red River regional staff continues to work with, and assist, local municipalities in areas related to solid waste management, wastewater management, and safe food handling at fairs and festivals. As part of the implementation of the new Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation, district staff participated in the development of administration protocols, system installer training and technical reviews. Districts also hosted information sessions for local wastewater system contractors, land developers and municipal officials.
- In the area of Emergency Response, regional staff responded and assisted in the clean up of a number of environment accidents and chemical spills. District staff was also involved extensively in the clean up of an abandoned mushroom operation.
- The region was involved in the review of 37 applications for funding of Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention projects, 28 of the applications were approved with a total funding grant of $467,200.00. The region also participated in the technical review of applications for Sustainable Development Innovation Funding.
- Regional staff also participated and assisted in the following activities:
    - The West Nile Virus Regional response Team.
    - The Provincial Beach Monitoring Program.
    - Winnipeg Airport Authority Technical Advisory Committee on the management of glycol (deicing agent).
    - Extensive residential well sampling in the community of Grosse Isle.
    - Biosolids Technical Advisory Committee related to the management of sewage sludge in the City of Winnipeg.
    - Auditing of the department's Environment Act Program.

Parks

- Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plans for all regional parks were completed.
- A draft Development Plan for the Trappist Monastery Provincial Park was completed.
- The region negotiated and signed a Cooperation Agreement with The Friends of St. Malo Provincial Park community group.
- A number of handicapped accessible campsites in St. Malo, Stephenfield, and St. Ambroise Provincial Parks were constructed.
- A viewing deck in the Pembina Valley Provincial Park was constructed and several hiking trails were widened.
- 11 new campsites at St. Ambroise Provincial Park were opened.
- 110 black crappies were stocked in the Mary Jane Reservoir near Manitou.
- District staff was involved in the review and investigation of the unfortunate drowning, and 2 near drowning, at the St. Malo Provincial Park.
- A total of 18,658 Transient Camping Unit Night passes were sold at the St. Malo Provincial Park, making it the second busiest campground in the province.
- Natural Resource Officers in the Manitou office were instrumental in the apprehension of individuals responsible for numerous break-ins in the Pembina Valley.

Table RO.25

12.3(g) Red River Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,139.5	62.89	3,471.7	(332.2)	
Other Expenditures	969.9		811.9	158.0	

Fire Program

Manitoba experienced the second highest number of fires on record in 2003. A total 1214 fires burned 918,844 hectares, well above the 20 year average of 585 fires. The spring began with earlier than normal fire activity due to low snowfall conditions and a lack of spring rains. Serious fire activity occurred throughout the province from April to September.

2003 Fire Season

- Light snowfall in most areas coupled with below normal spring precipitation and a lingering drought gave rise to extreme fire activity. A total of 364 wildfires (of which 355 were human caused) had occurred by May 30. Human caused fires were the predominant source of ignition until June, at which time, lightning became the principle source. The close of the fire season yielded a total of 685 human caused and 529 lightning fires, relatively consistent with the long-term proportion between lightning and human caused fires.
- Manitoba experienced abnormally extreme fire behavior throughout the province, continuously from April to September. Suppression resources were frequently stretched beyond capacity and out of province air tankers and fire crews were utilized on several occasions. Fires threatened several communities such as Thompson, Split Lake, Gillam, Brokenhead, Island Lake, Dawson Bay and Pelican Rapids.
- The application of an aggressive initial attack response system proved very successful in reducing the incidence of large fires in priority value areas. In total, 918,844 ha were consumed, with only 194,183 ha of that occurring in full and limited action zones. Losses to merchantable timber were minimal. Structural losses were minor and confined to 3 recreational cabins and 8 remote trapping cabins/structures. Of the 1214 fires, 598 were full action, 450 were limited action, and 166 no action fires. The largest incident fire occurred northwest of Thompson and consumed 44,000 ha.
- Fire program used seven CL-215 waterbombers, three Cessna 310 Bird Dog aircraft and three single engine Otter aircraft, operated by Manitoba Government Air Division. Waterbomber aircraft from BC, YK, NT, AB, SK, ON, QC and Minnesota were brought in to supplement the provincial fleet. In addition, the province seasonally contracts one Bell 206 Long Ranger, one Bell 204 and three Bell 205 helicopters from private operators. Through Standing Offers, the Program casually charters additional helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft as required.
- Air operations staff continued to work closely with Manitoba Aerial Applicator Operators (Single Engine Air Tankers) to enhance their capability to deliver long-term fire retardant. There is a need during spring ice breakup to have an air tanker resource when the ice prevents refilling waterbombers from lakes. Employing up to 12 aircraft and four forward attack bases, these Single Engine Air Tankers were utilized throughout the entire fire season and have become a core supplement to the government owned aircraft.
- Fire resistant protective clothing is now standard issue for all fireline staff. Implementation plans for outfitting EFF in protective fireline clothing are underway. The department has implemented a Provincial Fire Pump Parts program which will result in parts standardization and a cost savings. An additional equipment supplement was approved to equip a second mobile warehouse in the Northeast Region.
- A CIFFC certified crew leader session was held in the spring once again and 39 staff received training. Most crewmembers have now received first-aid training required by Workplace Health and Safety regulations, and most IA staff have been certified to CIFFC national standards. Work continued on training staff in the new Canadian Incident Command System (ICS). Over 375 staff have now received the basic I-100 course while 113 received the I-200 course and 43 staff received the advanced I-300 course. In addition, nine staff members were certified as ICS instructors. The Fireline Finance and Administration course trained an additional 80 staff members in this critical administrative function. Limited Emergency Firefighter courses were held due to the busy fire season.
- Fire Program partnered with the Office of the Fire Commissioner and shared the cost of multiple fire prevention radio commercials and newspaper ads, which were aimed at spring burning and at being careful in wooded areas. These ran in the spring, the first part of June and during the fire period at the end of July. As well, an increased newspaper advertising plan was put in place along with a restaurant placemat program which distributed over 150,000 fire prevention placemats across the province. Fire Prevention bookmarks and litter bags were also distributed throughout Manitoba by both the department's district offices and local rural fire departments.
- Equipment and personnel are shared with other jurisdictions in Canada under the Mutual Aid Resources Sharing Agreement (MARS). Due to the severity of the fire season Manitoba was a large importer of suppression resources required to assist in 2003. Import costs were $3.3 million. In the fall, Manitoba was able to assist other agencies and realized $.5 million in revenue.

Table RO.26
12.3(h) Fire Program

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,225.4	58.69	5,044.7	180.7	
Other Expenditures	7,798.0		8,064.6	(266.6)	

Table RO.27
Number of Fires and Area Burned by Region and Cause

2002	Northeast		Northwest		Western		Interlake		Eastern		Red River		Province	
CAUSE	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)
Recreation	26	188.2	8	4.2	2	25.4	1	3.9	9	3.6			46	225.3
Settlement	50	34.2	6	991.9	19	53.1	7	450.5	21	359.4	2	2,265.20	105	4,154.30
Woods operations	3	18.8	1	0.1									4	18.9
Other industry	2	2.2	7	45.3	1	0.1	1	0.2	4	4.9			15	52.7
Railroads	2	7.5	1	1.5	1	2			2	1.9			6	12.9
Public projects									3	0.3			3	0.3
Incendiary	68	271.9	7	19.4	23	4,930.00	158	5,352.30	9	15.2	1	54.7	266	10,643.50
Miscellaneous	5	0.8	2	127.4	9	121.6	9	396.5	12	15.9			37	662.2
Agricultural			2	33.4	7	526.3	4	261.3	3	7.4			16	828.4
Lightning	120	64,462.70	41	337.8	10	53.4	3	3.3	78	13,107.10			252	77,964.30
Unknown	3	0.4	1	0.1									4	0.5
All causes	279	64,986.70	76	1,561.10	72	5,711.90	183	6,468.00	141	13,515.70	3	2,319.90	754	94,563.30

Note: Table RO 28 published in the 2002/03 Annual Report contained data from the 2001 fire season. The above reflects the correct data for the 2002 season.

2003	Northeast		Northwest		Western		Interlake		Eastern		Red River		Province	
CAUSE	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)
Recreation	45	150.6	9	44	2	0.3	2	477.4	5	9,438.30			63	10,110.60
Settlement	55	82.9	6	162.6	13	3,969.80			32	259.2			106	4,474.50
Woods operations	1	1	8	17.6			1	75.9	3	2.1			13	96.6
Other industry	4	0.4	2	0.6	1	2							7	3
Railroads	5	2,579.20	2	0.6					6	15.9			13	2,595.70
Public projects	2	5	1	0.1					10	8.4			13	13.5
Incendiary	134	44,680.00	24	12.1	10	272.3	147	6,455.40	28	2,633.90			343	54,053.70
Miscellaneous	15	132.6	6	0.7			46	2,381.14	15	14.9	1	89.8	83	2,619.40
Agricultural					2	6,591.10	10	590.2	8	2,367.80	2	5,076.70	22	14,625.80
Lightning	377	798,056.10	64	105.2	11	4.3	5	66	72	30,754.90			529	828.986
Unknown	20	1,260.10	1	5	1	0.3							22	1,265.40
All causes	658	846,947.90	123	348.5	40	10,840.10	211	10,046.30	179	45,495.40	3	5,166.50	1214	918,844.70

Note: In the 2003 fire season 1,148 wildfires burning 547,895.7 hectares were identified by department staff. Post season investigation of hotspot data from the MODIS satellite revealed an additional 66 lightning fires that burned 370,949 hectares in the white zone. Manitoba will be utilizing this new method of data collection in the future to augment areas burned in the white zone that are not detected by conventional means. These fires have been added into the totals for an official number of 1,214 fires burning 918,844.7 hectares for the 2003 fire season.

Table RO.28

Number of Fires and Area Burned by Priority Zone and Action Status

2002	Actioned Fires				No Action Fires				Limited Action Fires				All Fires			
ZONE	# fires	% fires	Area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned
Red	460	69.6%	16,021.80	90.7%	2	3.0%	0.6	0.0%	7	25.9%	182.1	0.4%	469	62.2%	16,204.50	17.1%
Yellow	6	0.9%	56.6	0.3%					1	3.7%	1	0.0%	7	0.9%	57.6	0.1%
Green	170	25.7%	1,313.50	7.4%	30	45.5%	21,226.80	69.5%	14	51.9%	35,086.10	75.7%	214	28.4%	57,626.40	60.9%
White	25	3.8%	273.8	1.5%	34	51.5%	9,332.40	30.5%	5	18.5%	11,068.60	23.9%	64	8.5%	20,674.80	21.9%
All Zones	661	100.0%	17,665.70	100.0%	66	100.0%	30,559.80	100.0%	27	100.0%	46,337.80	100.0%	754	100.0%	94,563.30	100.0%

Note: Table RO.29 published in the 2002/03 annual report contained data from the 2001 fire season. The above reflects the correct data for the 2002 season.

2003	Actioned Fires				No Action Fires				Limited Action Fires				All Fires			
ZONE	# fires	% fires	Area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned
Red	579	57.2%	61,627.40	35.0%	3	2.0%	44.5	0.0%	16	29.1%	20,788.80	7.8%	598	49.3%	82,460.70	9.0%
Yellow	19	1.9%	1,783.60	1.0%									19	167.0%	1,783.60	0.4%
Green	378	37.4%	15,686.20	8.9%	26	17.7%	17,187.90	3.6%	27	49.1%	173,308.30	64.8%	431	35.5%	206,182.40	22.4%
White	36	3.6%	96,959.80	55.1%	118	80.3%	457,925.10	96.4%	12	21.8%	73,533.10	27.5%	166	13.7%	628,418.00	68.4%
All Zones	1012	100.0%	176,057.00	100.0%	147	100.0%	475,157.50	100.0%	55	100.0%	267,630.20	100.0%	1214	100.0%	918,844.70	100.0%

Note: In the 2003 fire season 1,148 wildfires burning 547,895.7 hectares were identified by department staff. Post season investigation of hotspot data from the MODIS satellite revealed an additional 66 lightning fires that burned 370,949 hectares in the white zone. Manitoba will be utilizing this new method of data collection in the future to augment areas burned in the white zone.

Figure 3. Number of Fires, 1994-2003

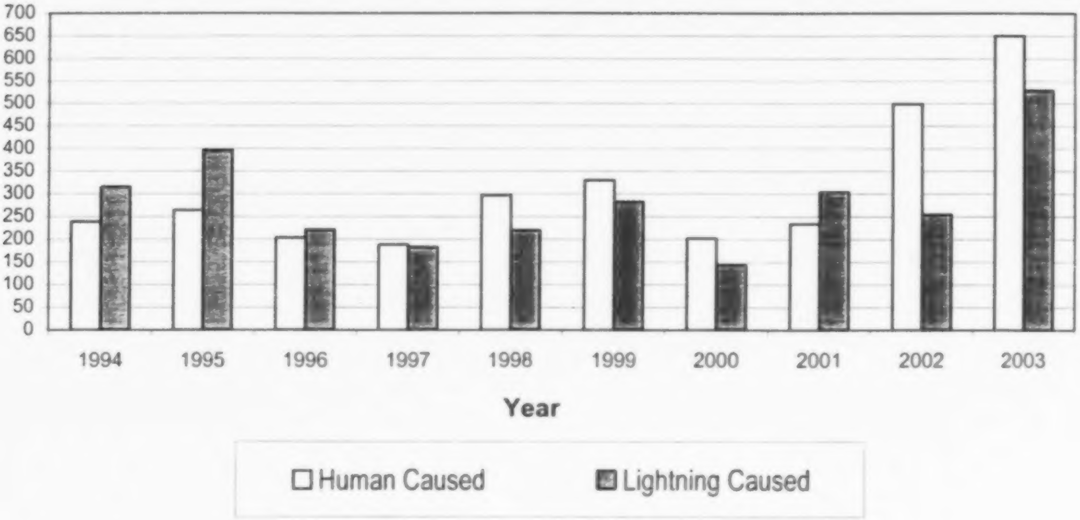
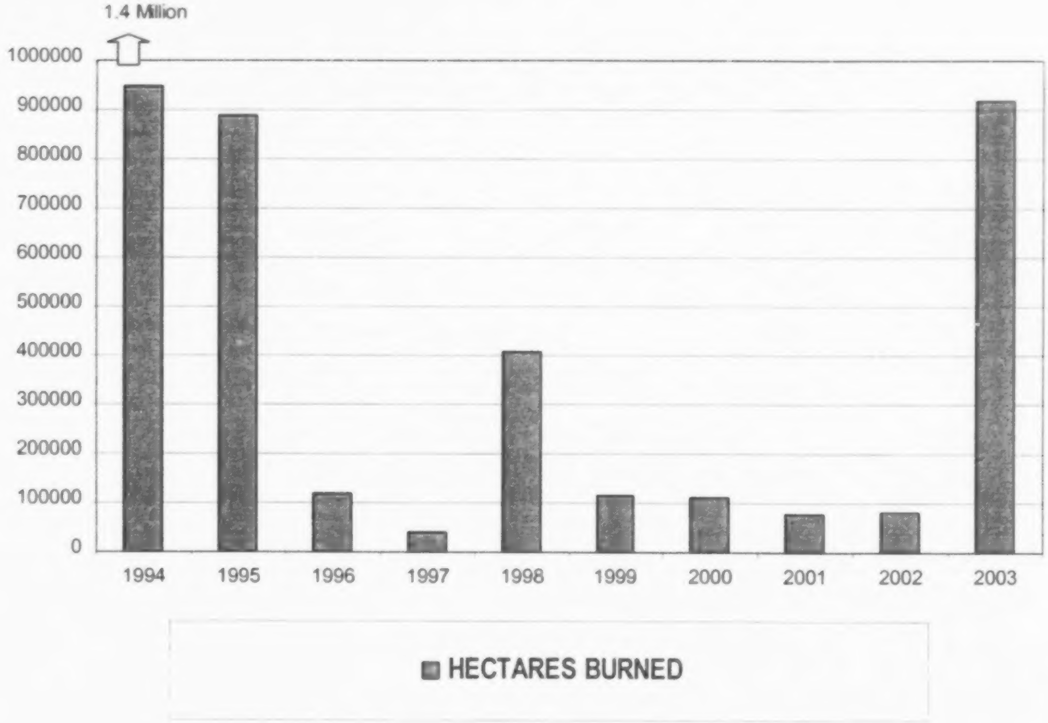


Figure 4. Area Burned, 1994-2003



Conservation Programs

Divisional Administration

Divisional administration provides strategic management of Manitoba's natural resources and environment (parks, lands, forests, fish, wildlife and air) in keeping with the principles of sustainable development. This includes promotion of activities promoting pollution prevention.

Conservation Programs Division comprises:
- Parks and Natural Areas Branch
- Forestry Branch
- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch
- Pollution Prevention Branch
- Lands Branch
- Air Quality Section

Table CP.2

12.4(a) Divisional Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	153.2	2.00	157.2	(4.0)	
Other Expenditures	172.9	-	177.9	(5.0)	

Parks and Natural Areas

Parks and Natural Areas Branch is responsible for provincial parks, ecological reserves and Canadian heritage rivers, managing these areas for the long-term benefit of Manitobans and the environment. These lands protect unique, representative or outstanding natural, cultural, and heritage features and resources, conserve ecosystems, and provide recreational and educational opportunities. The Branch also has a prominent role in identification and establishment of other protected and natural areas.

Administration

The Administration Section is responsible for establishing strategic direction and guidelines, ensuring conformity to Department policies and government goals, and assessing the effectiveness of programs and services offered to the public. Administration provides many functions including administrative support, personnel duties, capital budget coordination and the management of fees collected from Park users, commercial concessions, and leased properties. Work programs are reviewed to ensure that goals are met, and that expenditures conform to estimates, legislation, and policies. The Director of Parks and Natural Areas is the province's representative on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board and the Canadian Parks Council.

Grants were provided to the International Peace Garden, Manitoba Wildlife Foundation (upkeep and public programs at Fort Whyte Centre for Environmental Education), and Federal-Provincial Parks Council (for the promotion and management of parks).

Table PA.1

12.4(c)1 Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	351.1	4.00	331.4	19.7	
Other Expenditures	372.3		305.8	66.5	
- Grant Assistance	191.2		191.2	0.0	
Total Other Expenditures	563.5		497.0	66.5	

Planning and Development

The Planning and Development Section prepares land-use plans, development plans, policies, and regulations to guide establishment, management, and development of the Park system, to:

- Conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity.
- Preserve unique and representative natural and cultural heritage resources.
- Provide outdoor recreation and education in a natural setting.

The Section guides establishment and management of new Provincial Parks and Ecological Reserves. It manages the Canadian Heritage Rivers program in Manitoba and co-ordinates provincial input to national park establishment initiatives. The Section undertakes environmental licensing and land use allocation reviews, completes park management plans and provides design services for the park system.

Park System Planning

This program guides park establishment, use and management by working with the public to consult about proposed parks including such factors as boundaries, park classification and role and appropriate Park Land Use Categories. A major function at present is public consultations required to convert Park Reserves to permanent provincial designations. Major projects included:

- Creation of Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Heritage Park to recognize the contributions of this Manitoba pioneer family to the fields of science, art, sports and culture.
- Establishment of South Atikaki - Provincial Natural Park. This park includes the land access canoe routes to Atikaki Provincial Park. While much of the park is underlain by mining claims, the designation recognizes the recreational significance of the intact natural condition of the park's landscape. Subsequent regulation confirmed the exclusion of logging from this area, which had been closed to logging by policy since 1985. Amisk Park Reserve was extended for a further five years to enable more consultation with the affected First Nation.
- Consultations regarding the future designations of the Manigotagan and Chitek Lake Park Reserves continued, and field work involving members of the affected First Nations was undertaken at both sites.
- Development of a consultation package for boundary alterations for Camp Morton, Norris Lake, Memorial, Elk Island, Hecla/Grindstone, Duck Mountain and Oak Lake parks was initiated.
- A consultation process for Duff Roblin Park Reserve was developed.
- A consultation process to renew the Poplar/Nanowin Park Reserve was developed and reviewed with the Poplar River community.
- Consultations were completed on the proposed addition of land to Rivers Provincial Park.
- The updating of the provincial park system plan and development of a product suitable for the parks website was initiated.

Management Planning

The Provincial Parks Act requires creation of a management plan for each Park. Plans are working tools for managers in making decisions on major issues. Public involvement is integral to Plan preparation.

The management plan for Atikaki Provincial Park and Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River was completed with final revisions coming from a Canadian Heritage Rivers review. Approval of the plan is expected in 2004. It will then be distributed and implementation will begin.

The planning process for Duck Mountain Park continued with preparation of the draft plan. Public drop-in sessions to review the draft were held in August and September 2003. Follow-up meetings were held with a number of stakeholders and interested individuals. Work began on compiling a summary of public comments document for distribution in 2004. Many revisions were made to the management plan, and work is continuing on several of the more challenging issues. Completion of the plan is expected for 2004 or 2005.

Design and Development

This program provides development direction, site planning, and public facility design and mapping. Staff participated in the Watchable Wildlife Working Group with Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection and Tourism Development Branches, and in the Interdepartmental Recreational Trails Committee.

Major projects included:

- Continued redevelopment of recreation trails in Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park
- Managing the redevelopment of the Falcon Lake Waterfront
- Preparing a development strategy for the Provincial Camping and Cottaging Initiative
- Designing the White Sands Cottage Subdivision at Grindstone Point
- Evaluating and developing a design for Trappist Monastery Provincial Park
- Designing an expansion of the Gull Harbour campground
- Preparing detailed designs of boardwalk and viewing decks in Birds Hill and Pembina Valley Provincial parks
- Continued development of the Watchable Wildlife Program and design of a number of Watchable Wildlife viewing sites

- Revising, printing and distributing summer and winter park maps and field-checking various campground maps for accuracy

Ecological Reserves

Ecological Reserves are established under ***The Ecological Reserves Act*** to protect areas with unique and representative plants, animals, geologic features, natural landscapes, and ecological processes. The Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee, appointed under the Act, did not meet during 2003-2004, but a meeting is scheduled in early April 2004.

Work continued throughout the year on concluding reviews of previously nominated sites with significant likelihood for agreement on designating them as ecological reserves. The following significant progress was made:

- The designation regulation for Little George Island Ecological Reserve was prepared and submitted in late 2003-2004. It is expected to be considered by Cabinet in early 2004-2005.
- In January 2004 Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation submitted a Band Council Resolution supporting ecological reserve designation for a site near the community that had been under consideration for several years. A working group of government staff, community members and representatives of an environmental group that had nominated the site began to work on a management plan for the site.
- A new site was identified along the Red River in a parcel of land acquired as part of the 1997 flood-proofing program. The nomination form is to be reviewed by the Committee in April 2004.
- Work continued on finalizing the nomination and boundaries for a site in the Porcupine Provincial Forest that had been reviewed previously. The Committee is to consider the revised nomination in April 2004.

In fall 2003 it was discovered that two survey monuments located in Whitemouth Island Ecological Reserve would have to be accessed to complete a survey for a subdivision of private land on the west shore of Whitemouth Lake. The monuments pre-date the creation of the ecological reserve by about 100 years, and no alternative options were available. After thorough review, Ministerial approval was given to conduct the survey using global positioning system technology. The survey was conducted in January 2004 with minimal impact on the ecological reserve; only one small ash tree was cut to access one monument.

Canadian Heritage Rivers System

This program manages rivers that satisfy the System's criteria, applying national recognition to conserve and interpret outstanding heritage. The Seal and Bloodvein Rivers are designated Heritage Rivers, while the Hayes River is a candidate.

Management planning for the Hayes River continued with a series of government, First Nation and stakeholders workshops. These workshops were designed to address concerns raised by the minerals sector through the 2002 public participation program. A draft management plan was prepared and preparations were made for public consultations in early 2004. Completion of the plan is targeted for 2005. Submission of the plan to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System will allow the Hayes River to be moved forward to full status as a Canadian Heritage River.

National Parks Initiative

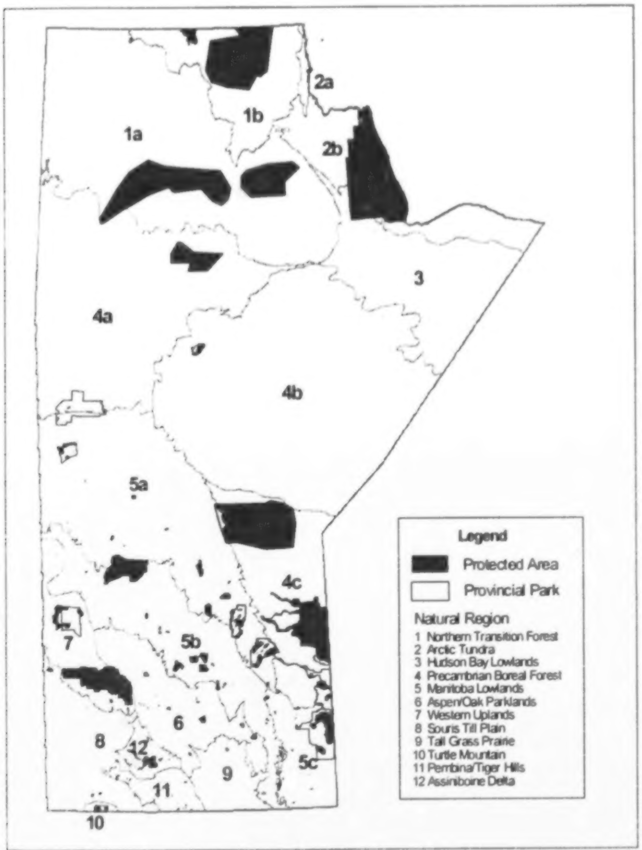
The provincial and federal governments renewed their commitments to the Manitoba Lowlands National Park proposal in several ways during the year. Both the Prime Minister and the Premier made announcements reiterating their commitments. The Federal Budget committed funds to effect the completion of park establishment. In March, the two governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) committing to a consultation process on revised park boundaries and an accelerated schedule to completion of a park establishment agreement. The revised boundary proposal associated with the MOU was the culmination of much work during the year to arrive at a boundary reconfiguration that provides for greater ecological integrity while recognising other local and provincial economic development interests. A park vision proposal and an economic development study on the proposed park were also prepared.

Protected Areas Initiative

The Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) contributes to long-term sustainable development by assembling a network of core protected areas designed to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity across Manitoba. Protected areas consist of land, freshwater, or marine areas that are free from oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydroelectric development, logging, mining, and other activities that may significantly and adversely affect habitat. Protected lands can include national parks, ecological reserves, provincial parks and park reserves, wildlife management areas, provincial forests and private lands that meet the province's definition of protected.

The goal of the PAI is to establish, for each of the 18 natural regions and sub-regions of the province, a network of protected areas containing an adequate and representative sample of the region's diverse landscapes. A geographic information system (GIS) is used to identify and evaluate potential areas, and track progress towards meeting this goal.

Figure 5: Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas.



The PAI's role is to work cooperatively within Manitoba Conservation (primarily with Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection, Forestry, Parks and Natural Areas, and Aboriginal Relations), and with staff from other government departments with roles and responsibilities concerning land and resource use or allocation (primarily Industry, Economic Development, and Mines; Water Stewardship; Transportation and Government Services) to design and establish protected areas. It is also the responsibility of the PAI to review protected areas proposals with the forestry and mining sectors, First Nations and Aboriginal communities, and other stakeholders.

To assist with program delivery, an Integrated Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) and regionally-based integrated technical teams made up of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship staff with ecological and conservation-based expertise were established. The ISAC's role is to identify ecological features important for consideration when designing protected areas proposals. Planning and design of protected areas proposals and consultations are the responsibility of integrated technical teams within each region.

First Nations were invited to participate in ISAC meetings to provide an opportunity for the incorporation of local and traditional knowledge into protected areas proposals. Regional technical teams continued to take protected area proposals to First Nation communities potentially affected by protected areas designations as part of the protected areas consultations that also take place with the mining and forestry sectors and other stakeholders. The Memorandum of Understanding with First Nations regarding the identification, establishment and management of protected areas was not renewed this year. However, Manitoba remains committed to the MOU and will continue to operate under the guidance of the memorandum while First Nation organizations and government continue to discuss renewal of this document. The First Nations working group, established under the provisions of the MOU, stopped meeting in June pending outcome of these discussions.

Important work continued this year with the mining and forestry industries, First Nation communities, and environmental organizations regarding protected areas. The Western Region Integrated Technical Team finalized a protected areas proposal for the Bell and Steeprock Canyons area of the Porcupine Provincial Forest and completed consultations on this proposal. The Eastern Region Integrated Technical Team designed three protected areas proposals in Natural Region 4c (Tembec's Forest Management License #1) based on the recommendations of ISAC. Ongoing work with the mining sector continues to identify more lands that could be designated as protected areas. Work also continued this year to identify areas within Agro Manitoba that have potential to become protected areas. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Nature Conservancy of Canada was drafted to recognize their conservation lands as part of Manitoba's network of protected areas. It is anticipated that this Agreement will be finalized early in 2004/2005.

Table PA.2
12.4(c)2 Planning and Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	835.2	14.00	807.2	28.0	
Total Other Expenditures	144.6		163.0	(18.4)	

Park Districts

Park Districts administers the Vacation Home Lot Program, commercial operations, landuse activities, water quality, and sewage and solid waste disposal. An accounting system tracks costs of road maintenance, garbage handling, and water, sewer and other services to lessees, permittees and private landowners. Budgets were developed to determine service fee levels.

Vacation Home Program

The Program administers about 6,000 vacation homes on leased, permitted and private lands in Parks. 317 assignments and 130 collateral security recordings were processed, 369 *Leases* were renewed and new *Leases* issued, and 366 *Permits* issued for cottage construction or structural modification. This program generated $4.7 million in revenue. There were 188 leasehold inspections carried out.

Commercial Operations

This unit manages relations with private-sector operators to ensure high-quality services for visitors. 163 commercial operations provide such services as restaurants, stores, accommodation, golf courses, marinas, and beach concessions. Also, 45 special-consideration organizations conduct educational and religious programs.

Land Use Activities

Permits were issued for commercial fishing, wild rice cultivation, trapline cabin construction, hay and grazing, scientific research, and mineral claim-staking and exploration.

Table PA.3
12.4(c)3 Park Districts

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	356.4	9.00	406.4	(50.0)	
Total Other Expenditures	34.9		48.4	(13.5)	

Park Operations and Maintenance

Regional Operations Division operates and maintains Parks to provide high-quality, safe and enjoyable outdoor recreational and educational opportunities, while ensuring compliance with provincial laws.

Table PA.4
12.4(c)4 Park Operations and Maintenance

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	11,326.0	225.80	11,068.8	257.2	
Total Other Expenditures	4,394.5		4,755.7	(361.2)	

Support Services

The Section guides and supports Regional Operations in ensuring high-quality outdoor recreational experiences. This includes analysis of operating strategies and procedures, policy review, market research, marketing strategy development, promotion, and statistical compilation and trend evaluation. The section sets the direction of the outdoor recreation program in Manitoba Provincial Parks and designs, implements, and evaluates new initiatives in campground, day-use, and backcountry management, as well as customer-service training and volunteer activities. The section is also responsible for the branch's Interpretation program.

Marketing

Initiatives included:

- Developing and implementing a comprehensive communication strategy for the parks program in conjunction with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism;
- Enhancing the Manitoba Parks website in order to better serve client needs and communicate provincial parks programming;
- Reprinting a variety of publications including *Parks Reservation Service, Family Vacation Cabins*, *Fall Camping* brochures, Group Use and Volunteer Campground Host and Group Use;
- Advertising in *Woodall's North American Campground Directories* and the CAA Campbook; and

- Promoting park programs and initiatives through newspaper advertisements, news releases, and handouts. Information included opening and closing dates, May long-weekend liquor-free camping and Reservation Service.

Staff participated in provincial tourism committees and workshops to improve positioning in tourism strategies and promotional campaigns. The section participated in the Mid-Canada Boat and RV Shows to increase awareness of Parks and Park programs.

Outdoor Recreation Programs

About 5.4 million people visited provincial parks. 5,814 campsites were available, including 4,250 transient sites (of which 2,537 or 59.7 percent were available for reservation), and 1,564 seasonal sites. 193,872 transient camping nights and 45,840 seasonal nights were recorded.

Reservations were offered in 38 campgrounds, 26 group-use areas and two cabin locations through the Parks Reservation Service. A total of 36,809 reservations were made, 3100 more than in the previous year, or an increase of 9.1 percent. A web-based reservation service was launched in 2003, and almost 25% of all sales were made on-line.

New initiatives included:
- Implementation of an on-line reservation option
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive waterfront safety strategy for provincial parks addressing public communication, risk management, signage and contracted programming.

Beach Safety

The Support Services Section provides program planning (both long term strategic planning and operational planning), policy development and program support for the Beach Safety program in Manitoba Provincial Parks. Initiatives included:

- Implemented a new contract with Criti Care EMS, Inc. (Birds Hill) and Emergency Rescue Response Services Inc. (Grand Beach and Winnipeg Beach) for the provision of Beach Safety services.
- Developed a comprehensive Beach Safety program policy (draft), brochures addressing general beach safety and guidelines for groups, a comprehensive signing strategy and a program manual (draft) to guide the activities of Beach Safety contractors.
- Completed an independent audit of Beach Safety contractor operations.
- Completed site assessments for individual park beaches and initiated work on a comprehensive provincial risk management plan.
- Initiated implementation of the provincial Beach Safety signing strategy.
- Worked with the Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters on the updating of Manitoba waterfront safety guidelines.

Interpretation

The program offers visitors a deeper understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources in provincial parks while assisting public understanding of goals and programs of the department. Live field programs, complemented by publications, outdoor exhibits, and audio-visual materials bring visitors in direct contact with park resources and management.

Delivery of the field program includes a full-time interpreter at Birds Hill, and 21 seasonal (May-September) interpreters at Spruce Woods, Hecla/Grindstone, Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Whiteshell, St. Norbert, St. Malo, Lockport, Paint Lake, and Turtle Mountain provincial parks. In addition, 18 Green Team members provided assistance at these parks. Interpreters contacted 85,081 visitors at field programs and in interpretive centres and museums.

Enhancement of the Manitoba Parks website included addition of all interpretive publications including park maps and trail guides. Documents that were revised or reprinted included:
- Interpretive park maps for Clearwater Lake and Camp Morton provincial parks;
- Interpretive trail guides for the Wildlife Viewing Trail in Turtle Mountain Provincial Park, the Spirit Sands Tails in Spruce Woods Provincial Park, the Grassy Narrows Marsh and Hecla Village trails in Hecla/Grindstone

Provincial Park, the Old Pinawa Trail, the Nimowin, Cedar Bog, and Pine Ridge trails in Birds Hill Provincial Park, and the Alf Hole trail in Whiteshell Provincial Park;

Brochures for Kennedy House and for The Petroforms of Manitoba;

Event posters for Lockport, Turtle Mountain and Paint Lake; and

Junior Naturalist and Park Explorer booklets and certificates for Whiteshell, Hecla/Grindstone, Birds Hill and Spruce Woods provincial parks.

v on-site signage was developed for the kiosk at Beaudry Provincial Park and the Spruce Woods Provincial k Centre. A set of cultural history signs was completed for Netley Provincial Park; and a set of replacement ns was produced for St. Malo Provincial Park.

able PA.5
2.4(c)5 Support Services

penditures by ıb-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
otal Salaries and Employee Benefits	486.0	9.00	446.7	39.3	
otal Other Expenditures	241.8		244.9	(3.1)	

Air Quality

To ensure the sustainable use of our air quality resources for the benefit of citizens today, while safeguarding these resources for future generations, the Section:

- Develops and reviews objectives and guidelines for air pollutants of concern,
- Monitors ambient (outdoor) air quality in urban areas and near selected industrial sources to measure adherence to objectives and guidelines,
- Undertakes special project investigations,
- Provides scientific and technical support to the Department, other agencies and the public,
- Prepares reports and evaluates peer reports,
- Assists in the review and assessment of developments and provides comments for environmental licensing,
- Participates in the development and implementation of national strategies, and
- Assists in the delivery of other departmental programs.

Table AQ.1
Air Quality Activities

Activity	**Number**
National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) – number of urban stations operated	2
Monitoring industries with air emissions – number of stations operated	2[1]
Participation in regional/national air issues and strategies	8
Support to major Department priorities	9
The Environment Act *and* ***The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act*** Proposals/Licenses: Reviewed Comments provided	38 / 28 9 / 8
Review of air dispersion modelling reports	9
Participation in standard development/implementation (Canada-wide Standards)	4
Requests for information (data, criteria, technical information, etc.) and presentations	12

[1] both sites operated with assistance from Regional Operations.

Highlights of the Section's activities for 2003/04 included:

- Outdoor air quality monitoring successfully continued at the established provincial sites; the air quality monitoring activities of others as required under regulation were audited.
- New replacement air quality monitoring equipment for the NAPS program was received for a number of air contaminants (ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide) – all of these units were placed into network operation.
- Annual air quality statistics for the year 2002 were determined and made publicly available. Release of the real-time hourly-updated air quality index (AQI) continued for the downtown Winnipeg site; opportunities for expanding the public availability of air quality data continue to be investigated.
- A special project to investigate air quality in the Transcona area of Winnipeg was designed and implemented. The program is scheduled to be completed in fiscal 2004/05 at which time a technical report will be produced and released.
- Planning commenced for the implementation of a joint (Department/INCO) air quality monitoring program for selected substances (particulate matter and selected heavy metals) in the community of Thompson.
- Issues related to the integrity of the air quality database were investigated along with implementation of existing software programs to perform under the new standardized desktop operating system.
- Technical support was provided to the Department's review of its base metal smelter emissions strategy.
- Canada-Wide Standards: participation continued in the provincial implementation of national standards for particulate matter, ozone, dioxins/furans and mercury and related standard development activities.
- The Department's Emergency Response Team was supported by assisting with the response function.
- Implementation of the Department's new environmental management system (EMS) was supported by the training of users.

Table AQ.1

12.4(d) Air Quality Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	273.8	4.0	242.6	31.2	
Other Expenditures	69.4		73.4	(4.0)	
Grant Assistance	1.6		2.8	(1.2)	
Total Other Expenditures	71.0		76.2	(5.2)	

Forestry

Forestry Branch plans, manages and allocates forest resources for the long-term social, economic, and environmental benefit of Manitobans. Crown forests are managed sustainably for all users; harvest and renewal activities are implemented in a manner that conserves ecosystem diversity. The Branch encourages diversification and growth of the forest industry, emphasising efficient utilization. To limit widespread tree mortality and timber losses, levels of protection are provided commensurate with social, economic, and environmental values at risk. The Branch advises and assists the public and industry with forest health issues on provincial Crown land, private woodlots and urban forests.

Forestry Branch oversees activity effectiveness to meet goals, reviews Forest Management Plans, and guides and informs Regional managers and enforcement personnel on policies and procedures.

The Manitoba Model Forest was supported by in-kind contributions, including two representatives who sit as Directors. The Department continued to participate in the Canadian Forest Service's First Nations Forestry Program. A team comprised of First Nation's organizations, industry and government (federal and provincial) delivers this program, funded by the Federal government.

The Branch provided a grant of $130,000 to the Manitoba Forestry Association woodlot program for services including the development of management plans and technology transfer. Staff also worked with Manitoba Forestry Association to deliver an environmental education competition, Envirothon and the Forest Ed education program for teachers.

The Branch also continued to support the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation's agro-woodlot program in southwestern Manitoba by providing a forester to manage the program and administer the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund grant of $312,400.

Administration

Branch administration establishes guidelines and ensures conformity to Department policies and government goals. It provides administrative support and personnel duties, prepares annual estimates, ensures expenditures conform to estimates and Department policy, controls funds, monitors efficiency and effectiveness of expenditures and coordinates development of the annual work plan.

Table FO.1

12.4(e)1 Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	395.9	8.00	368.8	27.1	
Other Expenditures	401.8		578.5	(176.7)	
Grant Assistance	353.4		353.4		
Total Other Expenditures	755.2		931.9	(176.7)	

Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis

The Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis Section is responsible and accountable for the development of programs that ensure the sustainable management and use of forest resources on Crown lands. Primary areas of responsibility include developing and maintaining information on forest land and resource, establishing sustainable allowable annual harvest levels and assessing and reporting on forest sustainability.

As part of its forest management stewardship responsibilities, the Forestry Branch calculates and manages harvest levels (Annual Allowable Cut) for the entire province. The Section maps and determines type and productivity of forest stands, and tracks changes due to fire, harvesting and other impacts. Timber harvest is managed by setting harvest levels and planning requirements, and is delivered by Regional staff through plan approvals, enforcement, and inspections.

The Forest Inventory program is responsibility to develop and maintain a database and digital geographic information system for Provincial Forest Resource Inventory. Forest fires that occurred in Manitoba's forested landbase in 2003 and timber harvest depletions from the eastern and western regions were digitized for entry into Manitoba's digital database. The Section responded to information requests including the distribution of digital and hard copy Forest Inventory information from Department staff, industry, consultants, academics, and the public. The section's forest modelling software, GIS applications and related workstations were upgraded. Software maintenance of the Geographic Information System continued to ensure effective management of the Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) database, and resource evaluations.

A new forest inventory was completed in FMU 30, forest stratification and photo-interpretation commenced in FMU's 11 & 12.

The three-year agreement with Louisiana Pacific Canada Ltd. to complete a new Forest Lands Inventory for the Duck and Porcupine Provincial Forests (Mountain Forest Section) was successfully completed. The inventory information collected through this project placed stronger emphasis on collecting additional forest cover attributes such as canopy layer and rank, enhancing wetland classification and included soil, landform and ecosite classifications.

As part of the National Forestry Inventory Program, 67 long term ecosystem monitoring plots were randomly established across Manitoba's ecozones to measure provincial, national & international reporting requirements related to forest growth, sustainability and climate change.

In conjunction with the Forest Lands Inventory Technical Advisory Committee, the provincial inventory specifications were revised and a framework to update forest inventories was also developed.

The Forest Productivity group re-measured 44 permanent sample plots, established 21new plots, conducted stem analysis (60 trees), completed timber volume sampling in FMU's 13, 14, 20 & 23, and commenced volume sampling in the Saskatchewan River Forest Section for use in the provincial growth & yield and wood supply programs. Yield curves using Provincial and industry utilization standards required for wood supply modelling were constructed for FMU's 13, 14, 31 & 35.

The Resource Analysis group completed a wood supply analysis for the Duck and Porcupine Mountain areas based on the $2.2 million forest lands inventory developed in partnership with Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd. (LP). The calculated wood supply reflects current forest management strategies and timber utilization practiced by the forest industry and accounts for landbase reductions associated with Treaty Land Entitlement selections, proposed ecological reserves and protected areas.

The Branch established a technical advisory committee with Tembec and Eastern Region Integrated Resource Management Team to determine a new wood supply for Forest Management License Agreement #1 and FMU 35. The technical advisory committee provided information required to update forest inventories for depletion and renewal activities, defining forest management practices, operable landbase and identifying constraints to wood supply modelling.

A wood supply impact assessment was completed on the proposed Federal Low Lands National Park.

The section partnered with Brokenhead First Nation and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to train several members of Brokenhead First Nation in field sampling procedures and undertake volume sampling in South East Manitoba. The program had a budget of $206,500, including a $100,000 grant to Brokenhead from INAC's RAN fund, Brokenhead First Nation's in-kind contribution of $32,500 and Manitoba Conservation's financial and in-kind contribution of $74,000. Members of the First Nation satisfactorily completed 200 plots and have since acquired forestry contracts with private industry.

Table FO.2

12.4(e)2 Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,147.2	17.00	894.3	252.9	
Other Expenditures	696.3		812.1	(115.8)	

Forest Health and Renewal

The Section protects forests from damage by insects, disease and other factors, assists wildfire management, ensures all harvested Crown forest land is renewed to maintain ecosystem integrity and biodiversity, and advises and assists the public and industry on forest health and renewal issues.

The Forest Renewal Program (delivered by Regional Operations) is administered and co-ordinated by this section. The Department and industry carried out forest renewal treatments on 10,139 hectares, including re-treatments. Most o the area was planted (13.4 million trees), with scarification to promote natural regeneration on the rest. Except fo some Department planting in Eastern Region and a non-tendered contract to a First Nation, delivery was through tendered contracts.

Of 9,945 hectares of softwoods harvested in 2002-2003, 57% (5,686 ha) was treated for reforestation in 2003, and th rest left to regenerate naturally or be treated in future. Expanding harvest of poplar (about 30% of harvested area ove past five years) increased area left to regenerate naturally, as poplar regenerates readily from root suckering. Abou 183 hectares of harvested area that had not restocked sufficiently was retreated by planting.

The Section maintains the pool of site-preparation equipment and co-ordinates use with Regional Operations Renewal technology transfer to regional staff is provided through field trials and promoting innovation. Regiona renewal programs are also supported through administration and co-ordination of silviculture contracts and assistin planning and delivery of vegetation management projects. The Manitoba Silviculture Technical Committee (MbSTC comprised of government and industry foresters and technicians continued its work of exchanging ideas and solution and providing technology transfer.

Tembec/Pine Falls Paper and Tolko Manitoba hired contract surveyors for regeneration surveys, and staff to chec survey results. Louisiana-Pacific utilizes company staff to survey. The Section tested Branch, contract, and compan surveyors. Tembec completed surveys with four individuals, Tolko had five, Louisiana-Pacific had three, and th Department had six. All obtained Regeneration Surveyor Licenses. An audit of Tembec, Tolko and Louisiana-Pacif surveys and check surveys was successful, and Certificates of Reforestation were issued. The successful re certification program was continued for surveyors who were licensed the preceding year.

Regeneration surveys to determine success of forest renewal were performed on 6,626.3 hectares. The Branc surveyed 2,721 hectares while licensed regeneration surveyors from Tolko surveyed 0 hectares, Louisiana-Pacif surveyed 2,046.3 hectares, and Tembec surveyed 1,859 hectares.

The Branch performed Free-to-Grow (FTG) surveys on softwood-dominated forest stands to determine if they a developing appropriately (i.e. surpassing competing tree species in height within 15-20 years of age). Full-surve technique was used on 2,173 hectares and extensive technique on 1,213 hectares. Branch Staff trained surveyo from Tembec to perform FTG surveys, which they then conducted on 1,515 hectares. Branch Staff trained surveyo from Tolko for the first time to perform FTG surveys and they then completed surveys on 3,356 hectares, Louisian Pacific is scheduled to commence FTG surveys in 2008.

Surveys, efficacy tests, and research on significant insects and diseases were conducted. Significant pests included spruce budworm, jack pine budworm, elm bark beetles, forest tent caterpillars, dwarf mistletoe, western gall rust, armillaria root rot, and pine root collar weevil. Forest health data was collected in regeneration, FTG, and pre-harvest surveys, to develop management prescriptions, and track substantially infected stands.

Spruce budworm infested about 131,135 hectares. About 10,650 hectares of spruce/fir were moderately to severely defoliated in Tembec's Forest Management License Area (FMLA), and in Nopiming, Whiteshell, and Hecla Provincial Parks. There was no defoliation mapped in Duck Mountain Provincial Forest, in Louisiana-Pacific's FMLA. In Tolko's FMLA the infestation increased to 100,830 hectares in the Northwest and a new outbreak of 5,650 hectares occurred in the Northeast Region. The outbreak in Spruce Woods increased from 5,574 in 2002 to 14,005 hectares in 2003. Emergency funding was provided to enable spraying the biosynthetic insecticide, Mimic, on 17,475 hectares in Northwest Region (Tolko's FMLA). Jack pine budworm populations remained low.

Dutch elm disease (DED) management seeks to reduce annual mortality to 3% or less by cost-shared agreements with municipal governments. Major urban centres with cost-sharing agreements are Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Morden, Winkler, Dauphin, Steinbach, and Selkirk. There were 12,865 elms marked for removal in cost-share communities and the Winnipeg buffer zone (which, through emergency funding, was expanded). High levels of DED persist along rivers, especially the Red, Assiniboine, Boyne (near Carman), and Souris Rivers. As of March 31, 2003, 12,215 elms were removed from 38 cost-share communities and seven urban-buffer-zone municipalities. Due to excellent working conditions through winter, removals are up-to-date again this year.

The Dutch elm disease (DED) program implemented the first phase of UFIS (Urban Forestry Information System) in May 2003. UFIS, which was developed by a team of six University of Winnipeg Business Computing students, is a sophisticated data base system that is designed for tracking diseases and pests in urban forests. It will be used for tracking of DED surveys and tree removals and elm firewood in the Manitoba communities participating in the DED management program. The outstanding feature of this system is its ability to record the geographical position of each incidence of DED. Spatial data is crucial in tracking and analysing the spread of DED over time, and will be used for assessing and further refinement of existing strategies to combat this lethal disease of elm trees.

The City of Winnipeg Forestry Branch, the University of Manitoba Dept. of Entomology, and Manitoba Conservation Forestry Branch are collaborating on a DED research project. The project will study the breeding habits of native elm bark beetle on recently symptomatic elm trees and how this affects the potential of the rapid removal method as a DED management tool. The project also will assess pesticides that could be used as alternatives to chlorpyrifos for use in basal bark treatment for managing over-wintering native elm bark beetles (*Hylurgopinus rufipes*), which is the main vector for DED in Manitoba. This research project is in the planning stage. Currently, Forestry Branch is looking for support to fund this project. The Section co-operated on a study with University of Winnipeg Centre for Interdisciplinary Forest Research and Tembec to compare effects of harvest and natural disturbance on biodiversity, using arthropod indicators.

In 2003, scattered localised defoliation by forest tent caterpillar occurred in the Western Region in the south portion of Duck Mountain Provincial Forest, Asessippi Provincial Park and in the Roblin, Rossburn and Grandview areas. A fall egg band survey was carried out in this area to predict 2004 defoliation. Nil to light defoliation is predicted in 2004.

Measurement of softwood decay was continued to develop cull factors for growth and yield models in Forest Management Unit 31.

The Fire Program is assisted by identifying values at risk, reviewing Forest Management Licensees' annual fire control plans, and participating in the Canadian Forest Service's National Fire Database mapping.

Table FO.3
Forest Renewal Activities

	Manitoba Conservation	Tembec/ Pine Falls	Tolko Manitoba	Louisiana-Pacific	Total
Area Treated (hectares)	1,750	1,037	6,202	1,150	10,139
Area Retreated (hectares)	75	48	60	0	183
Total Treated Areas	1,825	1,085	6,262	1,150	10,322
Total Trees Planted (1000s)	2,788	1,313	7,527	2,040	13,668
Total Area Site Prepared for Renewal Treatment (hectares)	1,259	73	3,683	409	5,424
Total Area Tended (hectares)	296	20	864	0	1,180
General cones collections	29.6	2.0	105.9	4	141.5 hl
Seed orchard co-op collections		7	20	8	34.9 hl

The objectives of the Tree Improvement Program are to provide a genetically improved seed source for reforestation, and to ensure the conservation of the forest genetic resource. The program consists of seven government/industry co-operatives with Tolko Manitoba, LP Canada and Tembec, and six provincial programs. Tree Improvement staff manage and provide the technical direction for all programs. All work involved in the maintenance and assessment of family tests, and the management of seed orchards is completed by tree improvement staff and a portion of the costs is billed to the forest companies through the Tree Improvement Trust Account.

There are currently 14 seed orchards (62.9 hectares - over 175,000 trees) and 27 family tests (83.3 hectares – over 191,000 trees) across the province. Improved jack pine seed is available in three breeding zones. Improved white spruce seed is available for the Mountain and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved black spruce seed is available for the Lake Winnipeg East and Saskatchewan River breeding zones and will soon be available for the Interlake, and Nelson River breeding zones. A white spruce Seed Production Area was established in the eastern region to provide better quality seed. Ten-year measurements were completed at the three family tests in the Nelson River breeding zone – the analysis of these measurements was contracted out to a forest geneticist. Fifteen-year measurements (the second set) were completed at the three family tests in the Lake Winnipeg East breeding zone in the fall of 2003. The results of these test assessments will be used to thin the seed orchards in their respective breeding zones to improve genetic gain.

The Section has also initiated a research project with the forest industry and the Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis section to quantify the genetic gain in wood supply attributable to using stock produced by the tree improvement program. The first step is to determine the data collection criteria and measurement schedule to provide sound information on the genetic gain on plantations established with improved seed.

Table FO.4
12.4(e)3 Forest Health and Renewal

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,298.2	21.06	1,662.8	635.4	
Total Other Expenditures	2,819.3		3,641.0	(821.7)	
Less: Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(1,248.0)		(1,292.0)	44.0	

Forest Management and Development

The Section provides direction to regional forestry offices and forestry companies in Manitoba on forest management and forest industry development. Together with companies granted Forest Management Licences, Manitoba Conservation manages forested Crown land to ensure timber harvesting and other forest practices are sustainable and consistent with provincial legislation, policies and guidelines. The section supports the existing forest industry and promotes new forestry developments. Manitoba's primary forest industry employs about 10,000 people directly and indirectly.

Forest Industry

The provincial annual reports for the three FML holders (Louisiana Pacific, Tembec and Tolko Manitoba) indicated that 1,511,070.02 m^3 were harvested by the FMLs. Timber Sale Agreements and Timber Permits authorized the harvest of another 822,205.51 m^3 by Quota Holders and other parties for a total provincial harvest of 2,333,275.53 m^3. Total Revenue collected was $6,428,762.01 of which 65% was for Stumpage (the cost of timber on the stump).

In 2003/04, Manitoba built on its tradition of auctions by initiating a process of Quarterly Stumpage Based Auctions. The goal was to create an open competitive market mechanism that is transparent in establishing the price of timber. To do this, each auction establishes an upset (or minimum) stumpage price that allows the industry an opportunity to bid based on its evaluation of the timber relative to the range of potential products and markets.

Since implementing the new Quarterly Auctions process, Manitoba has issued 16 Timber Sale Agreements for a total of 52,950 m^3 of softwood and 28,550 m^3 of hardwood. The auction sales generated an additional 55% in revenue above the upset price – i.e. $86,588 on total sales of $243,373.

Tembec continued a process of establishing Traditional Area Advisory Committees with First Nations in Eastern Manitoba. The committees will discuss opportunities for involvement in operations, develop mutually acceptable ground rules, and participate in planning by exchanging information, concerns, traditional ecological knowledge.

Until March 2004, Chemawawin Cree Nation and Tolko Industries Ltd., Manitoba Solid Wood Division had entered into a Partnership Arrangement for management and harvesting of timber in portions of the Interlake Forest Section previously part of Tolko's Southern Area. This arrangement will be assessed as to success of the partnership and whether a long-term agreement can be considered.

Planning

Forest Management Licensees (Tembec, Louisiana Pacific, and Tolko Manitoba) submitted annual Operating Plans for approval. The Mountain Quota Holders Association also submitted for approval an Operating Plan for Mountain Quota Holders operating in FMU's 12 and 14.

Practices

The Forest Practices Committee comprised of representatives from other branches and forest industry continued to develop guidelines for forestry practices. Two guidebooks on *Pre-Harvest Surveys* and *Protection of Softwood Understorey in Mixedwood and Hardwood Forests* were published and placed on the Forestry Branch website while work continued on guidebooks related to *Forest Roads, Brush Disposal* and *Riparian Management Areas*. These guidelines will link policy, regulations, operations, and inspections.

The flexible utilization trial to top harvested trees at diameters between 3 and 4" continued throughout selected Forest Management Units in northern Manitoba. Provisions to employ alternative means of brush disposal were provided in these areas while the Forest Practices developed a new Brush Disposal Forest Practice guideline for release in fall 2004.

A new Forestry Branch Circular for Softwood Field Chip Timber Dues was introduced in October 2003. The circular prescribes dues reductions for softwood chips produced in mobile chipping operations. Many of these chips are produced from roundwood less than the provincial utilization top diameter or from partially rotten non-merchantable logs. Timber dues are not assessed on chips produced from unmerchantable timber and the non-merchantable volume is not charged against the operator's quota or timber sale, or deducted from the Forest

Management Unit's Annual Allowable Cut. Further details on the dues for softwood field chips produced from merchantable timber, determining the eligibility of roundwood piles, tracking, reporting, and measuring chipperwood are provided in the circular.

In December 2003 Manitoba Conservation advertised timber auctions in several regions of the province. Timber auctions were also held in March and June, 2003 and are planned to be held quarterly in subsequent years. It may be necessary for Manitoba Conservation to postpone some auctions or add special auctions if circumstances warrant. Information on all proposed auctions and results from past auction is now available from the following sources:

- a web page
- local Natural Resource offices
- regional Forestry offices

Annual Operating Plans for each Forest Management Licencee were reviewed and approved as well as the operating plan for the Mountain Quota Holders Association in Forest Management Unit 14 and 12.

Check Scaling was conducted on all forest management licences in Manitoba. The check scale did not find any irregularities in wood measurement practices.

Table FO.5

12.4(e)4 Forest Management and Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	$	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	473.6	11.0	802.4	(328.8)	
Total Other Expenditures	64.0		64.9	(.9)	

Sustainable Forestry Unit

The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) is a new unit within Manitoba Conservation. The SFU reports directly to a four person management committee, comprised of the Secretary to the Community and Economic Development Committe of Cabinet (CEDC), the Deputy Minister of Conservation, the Deputy Minister of Industry, Economic Development an Mines, and the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. This reporting structure promotes a sustainabl development approach to Manitoba's forests, with a priority focus on diversification and Aboriginal participation, as we as proper coordination between departments.

The Sustainable Forestry Unit works closely with the other sections within Forestry Branch to ensure prope coordination on issues such as wood supply, fibre quality, forest management, wood tenure, etc.. The Unit is workin to enhance forestry opportunities within the context of sustainable fibre usage and environmentally-responsible fore management practices.

As a cross-departmental unit, the SFU is charged with developing a sustainable and diversified strategy for Manitoba' forests by focusing on the following areas:

1. Encouraging Aboriginal forestry developments, including (a) resource co-management, (b) busines ownership, and (c) economic development (training, employment, etc.);
2. Increasing value-added processing in the forest sector (including timber and non-timber forest products and
3. Fostering interaction between primary and secondary industry.

4. Monitor discussions, respond to legal requests, and coordinate policy reforms related to the Canada-US softwood lumber trade dispute.

The Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) provided $1.04 million in funding to establish Forintek in the province. The SFU participated in the initiative to establish Forintek so that wood product manufacturers in Manitoba will have access to industry specialists and technological solutions, as well as the latest research and other services available from Forintek's Value-Added and Wood Technology Program.

A $200.0 grant was provided to the Northern Forest Diversification Centre in the Pas as part of an initiative to make the centre self supporting. The SFU administers the grant on behalf of the Province. A matching grant was also negotiated from the Federal government.

The SFU worked with the CEDC and Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to establish a Federal-Provincial First Nations Forestry Working Group. The working group provides a communication link between the two levels of government and provides opportunities for federal and provincial governments to jointly address common issues.

The SFU worked with communities throughout the province that were interested in developing forestry based businesses such as saw mills or log home building establishments. Much of the work focused on providing business contacts and advice.

The SFU established a working group with West Region and Swampy Cree Tribal Councils to explore short and long term forestry opportunities for communities served by the two councils.

Forest Regeneration Stock

2.94 million seedlings were purchased for planting by Manitoba Conservation in 2003/2004, and 3.19 million were grown for planting in 2004/2005. Another 3.06 million seedlings were purchased for planting by Tembec, and Louisiana Pacific in 2003/2004, and 2.66 million were grown for planting in 2004/2005. This number is a reduction from the previous year as Louisiana-Pacific assumed responsibility for their own seedling purchases during 2003/2004. All stock is grown at Pineland Forest Nursery (Tolko purchases seedlings independently). This appropriation is also used for seed collection, extraction and storage, transporting seedlings to the field and a stock identification system.

Table FO.6

12.4(e)5 Forest Regeneration Stock

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Other Expenditures	1,553.9		1,411.9	142.0	

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

The Branch manages wildlife resources to conserve species and ecosystems, based on the preservation of biological diversity and on the principles of sustainable development. The Branch protects and enhances habitat on Crown and private lands. Resources are allocated to maximise long-term social, economic, and environmental benefits. The Branch co-operates with a wide range of clients and groups to promote commitment to conservation and to realize optimum benefits from interaction with wildlife. The Branch represents wildlife interests in departmental, provincial, national, and international initiatives for migratory wildlife, game and fur species, problem wildlife, protected spaces, conservation, sustainable development, biodiversity, federal-provincial harmonisation, and species at risk. The Branch ensures that wildlife programs reflect the cultural, subsistence, social, and economic values of Manitobans, consistent with policy, procedure and legislation.

Administration

The Section provides legislation, policy, and procedure support to direct and co-ordinate programs and to ensure effective performance. The Section also co-ordinates spending estimates, ensuring expenditures are within budget, and provides payroll, financial, and operational support, and administration of wildlife permits required under federal and provincial statutes.

The Legislative Specialist position in the Legislation and Permits Unit was filled as part of the succession planning initiative to ensure there was minimal disruption of service when senior staff retired.

Grants were made to: Churchill Northern Studies Centre (research on wildlife and resource management); Manitoba Trappers Association (trapper education and involvement in fur management); Fur Institute of Canada (humane trap development and public information); Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Critical Wildlife Habitat Program), and Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.

The Director continues to represent provincial interests on various local, national and international wildlife initiatives: Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee, Arctic Goose Joint Venture, Canadian Polar Bear Advisory Committee, Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre, Mississippi Flyway Council, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, and Prairie Habitat Joint Venture.

The Wildlife Aboriginal Liaison Manager position secondment to the Aboriginal Relations Branch ended.

Wildlife Branch Web site

The Branch Web site continues to be updated and expanded. Through the Web, we are able to provide an overview of who we are, what we do, and how to reach us, as well as information on current issues. The Web site has become an important tool for providing additional information to the public.

During the fiscal year, the Web site had experienced over 109,000 visits.

General Extension

During the 2003-04 season, displays were staffed at Rural Forum, Delta Marsh Birding Festival, Manitoba Grazing School, Association of Manitoba Municipalities Annual Convention, Manitoba Conservation Districts Annual Meeting, Canadian Waterfowl Festival, Home Expressions and the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair.

Over the course of the fiscal year, staff within our Sections gave presentations to 11 schools and 10 interest groups on various topics, such as: Manitoba's Conservation Data Centre, Manitoba's Great White Bears, Food Webs and Predator-Prey Relationships, Conservation by Design, Burrowing Owls and Endangered Species, Geese in Winnipeg, Bovine Tuberculosis in Wildlife, Chronic Wasting Disease, Parasites in Wildlife, and the Near-Urban Wildlife Strategy.

Staff continued to participate in Manitoba Envirothon by preparing test questions and assisting in the field day and oral competition components. Envirothon is an annual Olympic-style academic and environmental program for high school students (Grades 9-12). The students are tested in four discipline areas (aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife) and an annual theme (last year's: Agriculture Land Conservation and Preservation). The event was held at Swan River and 19 Manitoba school teams participated. The Northwest Soil Management Team from Swan River won the event and in July, represented Manitoba at the International Canon Envirothon in Maryland, USA.

National Wildlife Week

National Wildlife Week (April 6-12, 2003) was co-ordinated with the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF). The theme selected for 2003 was "Native Species – Nature's Choice."

Teacher kits were purchased from CWF and were distributed to all elementary schools in Manitoba.

Staff participated in a "Wildlife Forever" day, which was held at Edward Schreyer School in Beausejour, in conjunction with National Wildlife Week.

Legislation

Nine ministerial regulations under ***The Wildlife Act*** were amended to reflect changes required for hunting and trapping seasons and the protection of wildlife. Other ministerial regulation amendments included the development of restrictions respecting the placement and removal of tree stands and the creation of a hunting opportunity in game hunting area 38 to assist in the mitigation of waterfowl depredation problems within the Rural Municipality of Rosser.

Three Order-in-Council regulations under ***The Wildlife Act*** respecting amendments to a number of wildlife lands were completed.

Wildlife Permits

The Branch administers permits and licences required under ***The Wildlife Act*** and ***The Endangered Species Act***. Subject to federal guidelines, CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) Export Permits required under the ***Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act*** are also issued.

Table WI.1
Wildlife Permits Issued, 2003

Provincial Permits	
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (educational)	14
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (personal)	126
Applications Denied (dead wild animal)	14
Disabled Hunter Permit (permanent)	53
Disabled Hunter Permit (discharge firearm)	8
Disabled Hunter Permit (revoked)	0
Applications Denied (disabled hunter)	19
Dog Trainer's License (non-resident)	2
Dog Training Club Licence	3
Exotic Animal Import Permit	0
Field Trial Permit	2
Live Exotic Animal Possession Permit	1
Live Wild Animal Possession Permit	11
Power Boat in Marsh Permit	2
Serve Meat of Wild Animal Permit	1
Species At Risk Permit	5
Use Vehicle Off Designated Route Permit	1
Wild Animal Capture Permit	6
Wild Animal Export Permit	711
Wild Animal Import Permit	16
Wild Animal Kill Permit	5
Wild Animal Part Dealer Permit	31
Wildlife Scientific Permit	21
Applications Denied (all others)	1
Total (Provincial Permits):	**1053**
Federal Permits	
CITES Export Permit	1199
Total (Federal Permits):	**1199**

Table WI.2
12.4(g)1 Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	593.3	10.50	545.9	47.4	
Other	385.6		389.0	(3.4)	
Grant Assistance	207.0		207.0	0.0	
Total Other Expenditures	592.6		596.0	(3.4)	

Game and Fur Management

Hunting Opportunities

Manitoba Conservation is committed to maintaining, and when harvests are sustainable, increasing hunting opportunities. In recent years, initiatives such as adding a week to the rifle deer season in Deer Zone E, extending hunting hours, implementing new seasons or extended seasons for big game and game birds, and introducing province-wide Sunday hunting for game birds, have helped to achieve this goal. The youth Deer and Game Bird Licence package has provided greater access to hunting opportunities. The emphasis on youth mentoring programs, such as Waterfowler Heritage Days, continues thanks to the efforts of many groups and individuals including the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association, and Netley Marsh Waterfowl Foundation. Building on the success of these initiatives, a new Wild Turkey Licence (Youth) was introduced in 2003-04 at a reduced fee. This new licence will provide an economic incentive for young hunters to participate in a high quality hunting experience

In 2003-04, vehicle use in Game Hunting Areas (GHA) 12, 13, 14 and 14A was liberalized to improve hunter access and distribute hunters over a wider area. Also, the December shotgun/muzzleloader season was extended and a Third Deer Licence was introduced in GHA 33 to allow hunters to harvest an additional deer. The expansion of Sunday hunting for upland game birds, wild turkey, and waterfowl was well received in 2001. Further expansion of Sunday hunting for big game to 24 additional GHAs in the forested regions of the province, will give hunters an extra day in the field. Removing the winter moose season in GHA 21A from the Big Game Draw provided more opportunity for moose hunters, and archery elk hunters benefited from the bag limit change from "one bull elk" to "one elk" in GHA 30. Concerns about the impact of winter ticks on the moose population in western Manitoba resulted in a number of changes that will allow these populations to recover. Moose were removed from GHA 23and 23A bag limits, seasons in GHAs 12, 14 and 14A were placed in the Big Game Draw, and licence quotas were reduced in GHAs 29 and 29A.

Additional hunting opportunities may also be provided in situations where increased harvest is required to mitigate factors such as disease transmission, wildlife damage to agricultural produce, or wildlife/vehicle collisions. Last year, an additional tag offered to elk hunters in GHAs 23 and 23A was implemented and a late season for mature bull elk was introduced to help reduce the area population to the goal of 2,500 animals. This is part of the Department's commitment to the Bovine TB Management Program's goal of effectively eradicating the disease in the Riding Mountain area. To help mitigate the problems associated with an expanding fall staging population of Canada geese in and around Winnipeg, resident waterfowl hunting was expanded to lands within the Rural Municipality of Rosser, inside the perimeter highway.

Waterfowl Management

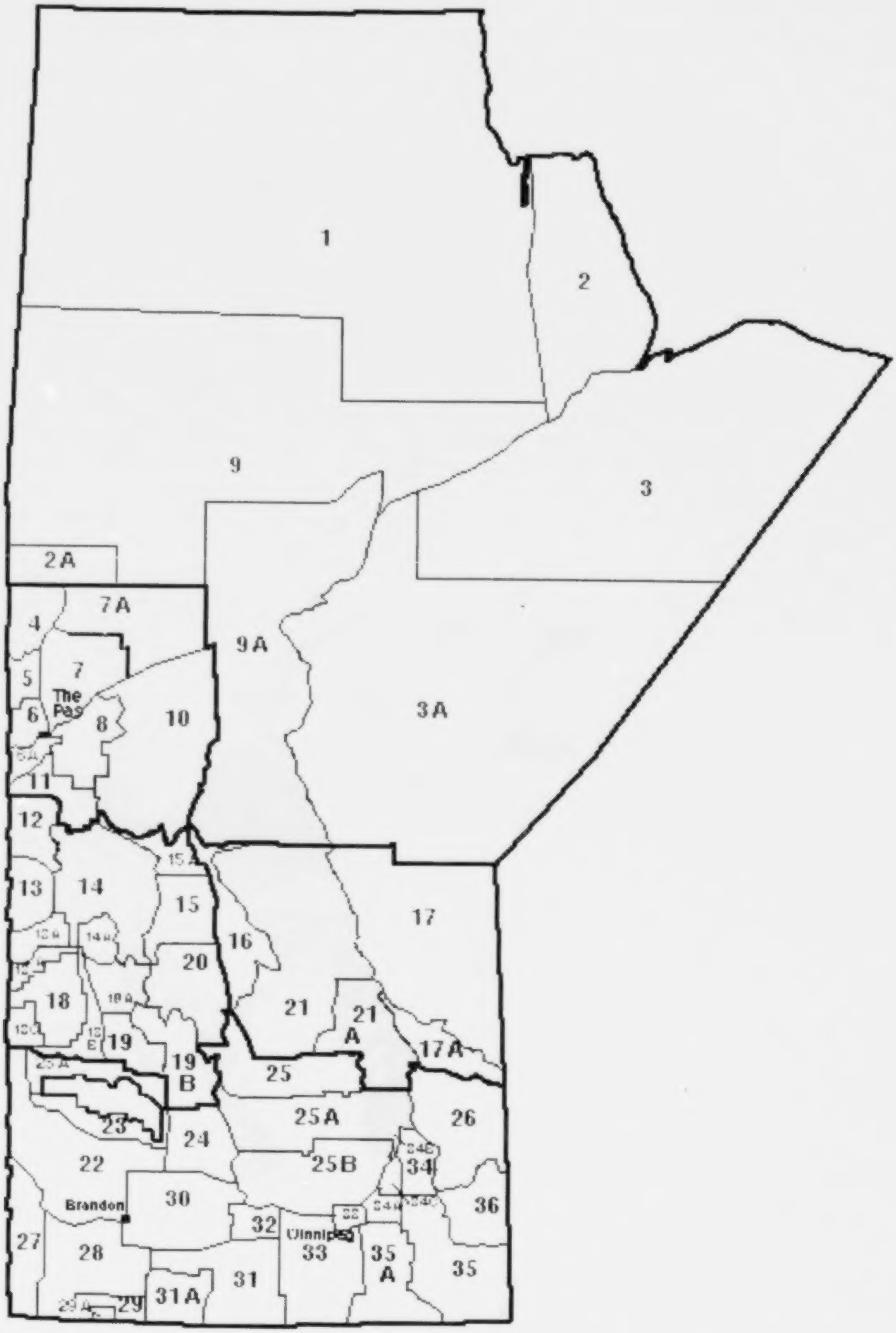
Given the growing pressures being placed on wildlife and wildlife habitat today, development and delivery of provincial wildlife management programs is crucial. Management of Manitoba's waterfowl and wetland resources has been accomplished through direct delivery of the Branch's programs, as well as partnerships involving non-government wildlife organisations, municipalities, conservation groups, provincial and federal government departments, and interested individuals.

Programs directed at recruiting game bird hunters were expanded to provide more opportunities for Manitoba residents. Residents who were interested in hunting, were invited to participate in supervised mentored training sessions. Additionally, some new hunters experienced an actual hunt. Interest by the public is strong and the program continues to expand annually.

Conflicts between wildlife and humans have been on the increase for several years, particularly in urban areas. The Department has continued to develop and deliver programs that will reduce the negative impacts of over-abundant wildlife species. These initiatives include expanded hunting opportunities, increased support for mentored youth hunts, experimental studies involving new deterrent techniques, and increased scaring activities at problem sites. Within urban centres, these programs have been utilized to reduce the impact of high numbers of geese where concern for human health and safety is increasing.

Manitoba continues to influence local and regional waterfowl management through participation and input into national and international working groups such as the Mississippi Flyway Council and the Arctic Goose Joint Venture.

Figure 6.
Game Hunting Areas



Upland Game Bird Management

Population trends for most upland game birds in Manitoba indicate that, where habitat has been maintained, numbers of birds remain relatively stable. Spring weather conditions during nesting and rearing periods has a decisive influence on population status. Generally, weather conditions have been favourable, with a mild winter and early spring followed by warm summer. Precipitation was variable and forage production was very good in most areas. Maintenance of provincial Wildlife Management Areas has been beneficial to upland populations. However, expansion of agriculture and industry has been detrimental to upland populations in some areas.

Wild turkey populations continue to prosper in southern Manitoba with numbers now exceeding 5,000 birds. Interest in turkeys and turkey hunting has expanded. The hunting opportunity was expanded through the introduction of a youth wild turkey licence at a reduced cost. The Department continued to work closely with Wild Gobblers Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation to remove and relocate problem turkeys from urban areas and rural communities.

White-Tailed Deer

Normal winter conditions occurred throughout most of Manitoba and the population experienced average winter mortality. Deer densities were moderate to high across much of the southern half of the province. High numbers inside the Red River Valley, where hunting is limited or prohibited, continue to substantially damage speciality crops and landscape plantings. A Second Deer Licence was again available in south and northeast of Winnipeg.

- Resident rifle season licence sales were 31,337 (31,026 in 2002-03).
- Resident bow hunting licence sales were 3,075 (3,014 in 2002-03).
- Resident muzzleloader licence sales were 8,327 (8,243 in 2002-03).
- Resident second deer licence sales were 568.
- Resident third deer licence sales were 144.
- Non-resident/non-Canadian deer licence sales totalled 1,640.

Black Bear

Populations are stable or growing, indicating that current hunting intensity (3,239 hunters) is sustainable. Over the last three years, resident participation has remained constant, between 1,200 and 1,300 hunters, which is considerably below the long-term average. Non-resident participation has also remained constant, around 1,900 hunters and is managed by quota allocations to outfitters. Quality experiences, such as a 75 per cent success rate and a reputation for big bears with a range of colour phases, attract non-resident hunters.

Direct measurement of populations is difficult. Consequently, indirect methods are used to detect changes in densities, such as field observations by staff, hunters and outfitters, hunter success rates, and sex ratio and age distribution of harvest. A computer model, using hunter harvest data and biological samples from hunters and outfitters, was used to evaluate harvest levels to ensure sustainability. Female reproductive tracts show number of foetal attachment(s), and premolar teeth provide age, together indicating age at onset, and frequency, of lactation.

The concern regarding orphaned cubs prompted a complete assessment of spring hunting. A mathematical model was developed to estimate the number of cubs orphaned as a result of the spring hunting season. The findings indicate there is a very low incidence of cub orphaning due to hunting.

The Problem Black Bear Management Policy and Procedure directives were developed by the Problem Wildlife Unit and approved by the Minister. The policy and procedures directives will provide consistent direction to regional and district staff when handling or responding to problem black bear situations in Manitoba.

Moose

Moose populations remained low in the Turtle Mountain, Duck Mountain, and Riding Mountain areas, due to the slow recovery of these populations from winter tick infestations. Moose populations in other areas of the province have remained fairly stable, although below carrying capacity. Discussions continued with First Nations regarding long-term harvest strategies.

5,020 resident and 121 non-resident licences were sold.

Elk

Province-wide, the number of elk has decreased slightly. The Duck Mountain and Porcupine Hills herds remain below target because of increased hunting that slowed recovery from the elk capture program in late 1990's. The Spruce Woods population remains at about 600. The South Interlake herd, which was higher than its population goal of 1,000, has declined to below 1,000 because of increased hunting opportunities. A reduction in the number of licenses and tags has been implemented for 2004, in an attempt to keep the population around 1,000 animals. In the Riding Mountain area, the current elk population is estimated at 2,700. Hunting seasons and licence quotas were used to help address bovine tuberculosis (TB) concerns in the Riding Mountain area. The objective of the current level of hunting is to reduce the elk population to 2,500 animals as one means of reducing disease transmission and prevalence.

4,783 elk licences were sold for rifle, archery, and landowner seasons, which was down slightly from last year.

Caribou

Populations of barren-ground caribou are stable or increasing, while coastal herds (Cape Churchill and Penn Island ranges) are stable. There were 702 resident and 196 non-resident licences sold. The non-resident season in GHA 1 benefits the northern communities and lodges, where employment opportunities are limited. Accommodations, guiding and outfitting are primary income-generating services with spin-offs to other sectors.

Diseases in Wildlife

There is evidence of low-level presence of bovine tuberculosis in the Riding Mountain area, which has been detected in cattle and elk. This has implications for agriculture, wildlife management, and human health. Several agencies are co-operating to address the situation.

Monitoring tuberculosis in wild ungulates in this area has completed its sixth year. Twenty-six elk from the western portion of the Riding Mountain region and four white-tailed deer harvested in the Grandview area have tested positive for the disease over the six years of monitoring. Over 2,000 elk and deer samples have been examined between 1997 and 2003. Bovine TB is an Old World disease that was brought to North America by infected cattle; infections in elk and deer were acquired from cattle. The Department, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Parks Canada Agency, the main program partners, have completed the third year of a five-year Action Plan for Bovine TB Management in Manitoba, which outlines expanded surveillance, scientific studies to understand disease dynamics, disease containment, and eradication.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease affecting the deer family (cervids), including elk, white-tailed deer and mule deer. This disease was found in captive deer and elk in Saskatchewan, Alberta and seven States, and in wild deer and elk in Saskatchewan and five States. The CWD surveillance program, initiated in 2001-02, is continuing. Approximately 1,841 hunter-harvested white-tailed deer samples near the Saskatchewan and American borders in southwestern Manitoba and 1,349 elk samples from Riding Mountain area were collected and tested. To date, CWD has not been detected in Manitoba's wild or captive cervids. Containment efforts in Saskatchewan and Alberta were monitored as infection in wild populations could spread to Manitoba. Several other initiatives were introduced to prevent the introduction of the disease into Manitoba. These initiatives include a ban on the possession and use of any substance that contains materials from cervids and restrictions on the importation of live and dead cervids from other jurisdictions.

Non-resident Hunting Licence Allocation Program

Once First Nations and resident demand has been satisfied, wildlife resources can be made available to the non-resident hunting industry if that use is sustainable. Quotas of non-resident big game hunting licences are established for each GHA and allocated to lodges and outfitters according to departmentally approved policies and procedures. Each year, non-resident (non-Canadian) hunters purchase approximately 2,700 non-resident bear licences, 2,500 non-resident deer licences, 230 non-resident moose licences and 190 non-resident caribou licences. This activity, in addition to non-resident waterfowl hunting, generates over $25 million annually in direct economic benefits. Allocation of non-resident big game licences through lodges and outfitters allows the Department to closely monitor the non-resident harvest to ensure sustainability while meeting the needs of priority users. The program is regularly reviewed and adjusted to ensure that objectives are met.

The challenge facing the industry in 2003-04 was the closure of the American border to Canadian ruminants, due to the discovery of a BSE-positive animal in Canada. This issue, which could potentially seriously affect the number of deer, caribou and moose hunting packages sold to non-residents, was eventually resolved through negotiations between the provincial and federal governments and the US Department of Agriculture.

The Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association, Manitoba Wildlife Federation, and individual outfitters were consulted to identify and address concerns. Major goals of the non-resident hunting program are to foster stewardship of wildlife resources and improve the business environment.

Big Game Monitoring

The dynamics of big game populations are evaluated each year to provide input to the setting of hunting seasons and other management tasks. There are three main categories of information, gathered through the following activities:

- Winter aerial inventories to estimate abundance, sex and age composition, recruitment and distribution;
- Mail questionnaires to estimate harvests, hunter effort and hunter distribution; and
- Biological specimen collection to assess age and reproductive status.

These data are often entered into computer simulations (models) to estimate the consequences of alternative management plans.

Aerial Surveys

Aerial surveys of big game were cancelled for 2003-04 to provide funding for disease control programs.

Hunter Questionnaires, Big Game Seasons

In the annual cycle of the questionnaire program, the analysis of the questionnaires of the previous year occurs early in each fiscal year. In 2002-03, approximately 29,000 questionnaires were mailed and approximately 13,000 responses received. The results are summarized below.

Table WI.3
Resident Hunter Big Game Harvest, 2002-03

Season	Licences Sold	Estimated Harvest
Deer rifle	31,076	19,677
Deer archery	3,016	1,084
Deer muzzleloader	8,253	4,958
Deer (antler-less) second	549	283
Moose rifle	3,352	548
Moose (conservation)	260	28
Moose (draw)	1,525	363
Moose archery	160	6
Moose (draw) archery	79	14
Elk (draw)	3,265	541
Elk (draw) archery	979	78
Elk (draw) landowner	621	152
Black Bear	1,309	434

The questionnaires for the 2003-04 year were mailed and will be analyzed for inclusion in 2004-05 reporting.

Biological Specimen Collection

The Section collects biological samples from hunters, who provide teeth and reproductive tracts from black bears. Crests are offered in appreciation for submission of teeth, and belt buckles for female reproductive tracts. These rewards contribute to a submission rate of 60 per cent of (estimated) bear harvest. Preliminary analyses of 2002 specimens are:

- 242 female and 665 male pre-molars were aged: average age for females was 6.34 years (oldest aged was 31.6 years in 1999) and for males, 4.81 years (oldest aged was 29.5 years in 1996).
- 188 complete reproductive tracts were examined, identifying 2.79 cubs as average litter for mature females (6+ years) and 2.0 cubs for 2-5 year-olds.

Problem Wildlife

This unit develops policies, legislation, and programs to address wildlife/human conflicts.

The expanded Problem Beaver Control Program was implemented for the third consecutive year by adding the Winter Beaver Subsidy Program to the existing summer program. These Programs offered a subsidy of $15.00 per beaver taken from designated Municipalities and Registered Trapline Districts. The winter subsidy encourages harvest during the trapping season when the pelts have market value. A total of $122,718 was spent to remove 8,181 beavers ($47,298 to remove 3,153 beavers in the summer and $75,420 to remove 5,028 beavers in the winter). These figures are down slightly from the $125,835 spent on 8,389 beavers in 2002-03. Over 40 municipalities participated in the programs; however, most problems occurred in the municipalities around Duck Mountain and Riding Mountain National Park.

In 2002-03, the Department entered into an agreement with the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA) to deliver a Predator Control Program in chronic problem areas, mostly southwest Manitoba. The Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation (MCIC) supported this program by referring clients to MTA. A total of $35,000 was provided for this program, which was operational between March and October 2003. Following initial referral by MCIC, 177 complaints from producers were responded to by MTA trappers; a total of 137 predators, mostly coyotes, were taken. This program was extremely popular with producers and trappers.

The Wildlife Crop Damage Compensation Program, administered by MCIC, reimburses producers for bear damage to beehives and produce, for deer, elk, and bear damage to crops and property, and for livestock loss or injuries from predators such as wolves. Compensation for big game damage decreased this year due to ideal harvest conditions during the fall before the onset of winter. Approximately $400,000 was paid for damages caused by deer, elk and bear to standing crops and stored hay. Compensation for waterfowl damage also decreased to about $254,000, due to ideal fall harvest conditions. Damage to leafcutter bee operations totalled $15,000 while damage to honey operations increased marginally from $60,000 to $83,500.

The Problem Wildlife Unit developed the Problem Black Bear Management Policy and Procedure directives, with co-operation from Regional Operations Division. The Minister approved the policy and procedure directives, which will provide consistent direction to regional and district staff when handling or responding to problem black bear situations in Manitoba.

This was the sixth full year for the Predator/Livestock Damage Compensation Program. MCIC feels that the demand upon this compensation program has levelled off since the number of predator claims decreased from 1,100 to 946. The compensation paid decreased from $333,000 to $238,000, because of depressed prices due to the bovine spongiform encephalopothy (BSE) crisis and fewer claims.

At-large wild boar monitoring continued due to concerns for human safety, habitat destruction, and property and crop damage. The number of wild boar reported decreased slightly this year, but reports were received from the northern Interlake and southeastern Manitoba. Staff conducted a survey of over 850 regional wildlife biologists, wildlife enforcement officers and agricultural specialists employed by government agencies in each province and territory of Canada, and in each American State adjacent to the Canada – U.S.A. border. This study is part of a co-operative effort by Manitoba Conservation, Kansas State University and Saskatchewan Environment to determine the number, distribution, status and management of feral pigs in Canada and the northern tier of states. The Branch continues to receive and assess reports of boar at large in Manitoba.

Over 146,000 Canada geese staged inside the perimeter highway around the City of Winnipeg last fall. Staff fielded calls from the public about property damage and health risks from goose droppings. Many airlines continue to be concerned about the threat of large numbers of geese to air traffic. The Urban Goose Working Group continued to investigate the problem and experimented with several devices to deter the geese from using urban ponds and habitat. A management plan for urban geese is being drafted and will be circulated to the group members: Environment Canada, City of Winnipeg, Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Winnipeg Humane Society, Air Canada and the Winnipeg Airport Authority.

Furbearer Management

The program sustains populations of furbearers, promotes optimum harvests and economic, social, and cultural returns to trappers and their families. Both furbearer production and the number of each species sold by trappers are monitored. The program encourages humane trapping and promotes education and public understanding of furbearer management and the fur industry. Harvest and licence/permit information is based on the Fur Year, September 1, 2002 to August 31, 2003.

Lynx populations continue to recover from the very low numbers in the 1980's. This population increase was reflected in both the number and southerly locations of sightings. As well, the 2002-03 provincial harvest of 1,127 was the largest one since 1982. The species will continue to be closely monitored and action may be taken as its population cycle begins its predictable downward trend over the next few years.

Marten populations have increased over the last two decades, owing largely to favourable habitat conditions, but are now expected to vary rather than increase consistently. Harvest levels in 2002-03 went up to 17,897 from the previous year's 13,959. Improved travel conditions for trappers and adequate prey supply for this species resulted in this higher figure.

Coyote harvests showed another large increase likely because of higher prey populations and improved pelt prices. Increased livestock predation by coyotes was addressed in southern Manitoba by a Predator Control Program operated by the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA), in co-operation with Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation (MCIC).

Red fox harvests and populations improved because of increased prey numbers, relative to last year. Significant increases were seen also with otter as trappers focussed on this species because of improved prices. The arctic fox population and harvest began to increase after a prolonged depression from low numbers of lemmings, their primary food.

Extremely poor pelt prices for beaver (a provincial average of $16.65 per pelt) caused the harvest to fall to 19,960, the lowest number since 1993. At the same time, populations have increased and may potentially result in more problem incidents. The Beaver Control Program, which subsidises municipalities for problem beaver control, is credited for keeping the harvest higher than it could have been. A lower beaver harvest would allow populations to increase and exacerbate municipal flooding.

Wolverine populations are believed to be increasing, with sightings and captures east of Lake Winnipeg, north of the Winnipeg River. This trend was also observed in northwest Ontario. Wolverines depend largely on ungulate carrion, and larger numbers of caribou in the Penn Island herd in north-east Manitoba have contributed to the increased food supply for wolverines.

Bobcat harvest also increased, following a similar trend in North Dakota and Minnesota. This species is at the northern extent of its range in Manitoba, and 27 were harvested in 2002-03, over double the previous year's number.

One hundred and seventeen free Youth Trapping Licences/Permits were issued, which was an increase from 94 last year. Graduates, aged 12-17, of the Trapper Education Program join other jurisdictions in this no-fee program for youth trappers.

United States continued to be the major market (80 per cent) for Canadian pelts, with Japan and the European Union countries taking the rest. Fur dealers were pursuing increased sales to China and Russia.

Staff worked with the Fur Institute of Canada's Trap Research and Development Committee on humane trapping devices and manufacturing standards. All approved devices are annually listed in the *Manitoba Trapping Guide*, along with the timetable for implementation of the Canada-Russia-European Union Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards.

Additional effort was put into education services in 2003-04. Mandatory Trapper Education Program exams were completed by over 200 students, which almost doubles the annual average numbers. Workshops were held at Cross Lake, Hollow Water, Nelson House, Norway House, Thompson, and Tramping Lake. Workshop instructors were from the Department and the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA). Tramping Lake and Wallace Lake field stations were used by staff, by students from Keewatin Community College Resource Management program, and by the Junior Forest Ranger Program in eastern Manitoba. The Manitoba Model Forest provided funds for renovations to the Wallace Lake Field Station.

A professional trapper workshop, organized by Manitoba Conservation in co-operation with the MTA, was held in Thompson in February 2004. About 60 trappers from the region were shown new techniques on furbearer trapping and pelt preparation.

Plans of Open and Registered Trapping Areas continue to be consolidated into a Director of Surveys registry, facilitating boundary identification for managers and trappers.

Tissue samples from various species were forwarded to various university researchers. Studies typically compared genetic differences between sub-populations of each species in Canada.

Table WI.4
12.4(g)2 Game, Fur and Problem Wildlife Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	715.3	11.29	632.1	83.2	
Other Expenditures	251.8		262.9	(11.1)	
Grant Assistance	89.9		89.9	0.0	
Total Other Expenditures	341.7		352.8	(11.1)	

Table WI.5
Fur Statistics, Year ending 31 August 2003

Species	Quantity	Average Price $	Production Value $	% of Total Value	Royalty Per Pelt	Royalty $
Badger	163	40.56	6,611	0.2	0.50	82
Bear	1,412	95.19	134,408	4.5	1.00	1,412
Beaver	19,960	19.50	389,220	13.0	0.50	9,980
Bobcat	27	267.53	7,223	0.2	1.00	27
Coyote	7,890	57.00	449,730	15.0	1.00	7,890
Ermine	4,490	4.47	20,070	0.7	0.05	225
Fisher	2,207	35.39	78,106	2.6	1.00	2,207
Fox, Blue	1		0	0.0	0.50	1
Fox, Cross	156	47.27	7,374	0.2	0.50	78
Fox, Red	2,419	41.36	100,050	3.3	0.50	1,210
Fox, Silver	36	29.90	1,076	0.0	0.50	18
Fox, White	85	25.43	2,162	0.1	0.50	43
Lynx	1,127	150.46	169,568	5.7	1.00	1,127
Marten	17,897	50.04	895,566	29.9	1.00	17,897
Mink	5,663	17.47	98,933	3.3	0.50	2,832
Muskrat	10,687	2.49	26,611	0.9	0.05	534
Otter	2,741	183.33	502,508	16.8	0.75	2,056
Raccoon	3,183	15.97	50,833	1.7	0.50	1,592
Squirrel	6,292	0.71	4,467	0.1	0.05	315
Wolf, Timber	364	119.46	43,483	1.5	1.00	364
Wolverine	39	260.52	10,160	0.3	2.50	98
Total			$2,998,159			$49,984

Notes: 1. The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995-96 ***Annual Report***, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2003-04 ***Annual Report*** will contain information on the 2002-2003 Fur Year Ending August 31, 2003.

Table WI.6

Trappers and Value of Wild Fur Production 1993-94 to 2002-03

Year	Open Area Trappers (#)	Registered Trapline Trappers (#)	Estimated Production Value ($)
1993-94	5,546	1,818	2,694,978
1994-95	5,611	1,993	2,539,052
1995-96	6,336	1,865	2,639,452
1996-97	4,827	1,975	3,715,834
1997-98	5,315	2,049	3,306,968
1998-99	4,750	1,856	2,037,022
1999-00	4,276	1,669	1,967,404
2000-01	4,355	1,827	2,769,981
2001-02	4,958	1,764	2,448,804
2002-03	5,503	1,668	2,998,159

Notes: 1. The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995-96 ***Annual Report***, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2003-04 ***Annual Report*** will contain information on the 2002-2003 Fur Year Ending August 31, 2003.

Table WI.7
Hunting Licences Sold

Type of Licence	Fee $	Number Sold	Revenue $
Game Bird			
Resident of Manitoba	19.63	11,319	211,420.97
Non-resident (Canadian)	60.75	724	43,349.00
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)	116.82	5,786	670,671.24
Wild Turkey			
Resident of Manitoba	20.56	881	17,345.36
Resident of Manitoba - Youth	4.67	37	142.79
Moose			
Resident of Manitoba	44.86	4,911	217,367.46
Resident of Manitoba – Conservation	35.51	216	7,489.24
Non-resident (Canadian)	255.14	9	2,292.26
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)	304.67	112	34,011.04
Elk			
Resident of Manitoba	44.86	4,778	214,341.08
Caribou			
Resident of Manitoba	40.19	498	20,014.62
Resident of Manitoba – Second	93.46	204	19,065.84
Non-Resident (Non-Canadian)	304.67	116	34,618.38
Non-Resident (Non-Canadian) – Second	700.93	80	24,293.60
Black Bear			
Resident of Manitoba	25.23	1,306	31,779.38
Non-resident (Canadian)	80.37	21	1,678.77
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)	172.90	1,920	328,503.90
Deer			
Resident of Manitoba	30.84	43,481	1,298,736.04
Resident of Manitoba – Second	16.82	568	9,013.76
Resident of Manitoba – Third	16.82	144	2,284.08
Non-resident (Canadian)	116.82	845	98,205.90
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)	172.90	1,643	281,916.00
Youth Hunting Licence Package			
Resident of Manitoba	9.35	3,520	29,526.00
Total Licence Sales			
Resident of Manitoba		71,863	2,078,526.62
Non-resident (Canadian)		1,599	145,525.93
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)		9,657	1,374,014.16
Total		83,119	3,598,066.71
Replacement	Variable	183	1,522.05
Grand Totals		83,302	3,599,588.76

Notes:
1. Revenue figures are net (less vendor's commission)
2. Non-Resident Caribou Licences are valid for both Canadian and Non-Canadian Hunters and re included with the Non-Resident (Non-Canadian) totals.
3. Resident Conservation Moose Licences are issued as a 2 Licence/1 tag package (216 licences = 108 packages).
4. A Youth Turkey Hunting Licence for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 2003.
5. A Third Deer Hunting Licence for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 2003.

Table WI.8
Hunting Licence Sales and Revenue 1994-95 to 2003-04

	Game Bird		Big Game		Totals	
Year	# Sold	Revenue $	# Sold	Revenue $	# Sold	Revenue $
1994-95	23,331	793,088.50	62,485	2,009,832.00	85,816	2,802,920.50
1995-96	24,511	848,222.00	67,883	2,210,534.00	92,394	3,058,756.00
1996-97	24,789	890,609.50	71,955	2,208,504.00	96,744	3,099,113.50
1997-98	23,446	1,056,020.70	63,668	2,402,913.96	87,114	3,458,934.66
1998-99	23,816	1,112,930.77	59,743	2,423,557.18	83,559	3,536,487.95
1999-00	22,096	1,070,616.01	67,058	2,610,746.10	89,154	3,681,362.11
2000-01	19,742	950,233.84	62,830	2,640,246.04	82,572	3,590,479.88
2001-02	18,287	824,801.91	64,407	2,659,738.55	82,694	3,484,540.46
2002-03	17,850	896,327.62	64,154	2,677,817.56	82,004	3,574,145.18
2003-04	18,747	942,929.36	64,555	2,656,659.40	83,302	3,599,588.76

Notes:
1. $5.00 per licence for wildlife enhancement introduced in 1997-98.
2. Second Licences for Resident and Non-Resident Caribou Hunters introduced in 1999-00.
3. Youth Hunting Licence Package for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 1999-00.
4. Youth Turkey Hunting Licence for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 2003-04.
5. Third Deer Hunting Licence for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 2003-04

Table WI.9
Wildlife Licence Revenue

Type of Licence	Revenue $
Hunting Licences	
Game Bird Licences	$925,441.21
Wild Turkey Licences	$17,488.15
Black Bear Licences	$361,962.05
Replacement Licences	$1,522.05
Caribou Licences	$97,992.44
Deer Licences	$1,690,155.78
Elk Licences	$214,341.08
Moose Licences	$261,160.00
Youth Hunting Licence Package	$29,526.00
Total – Hunting	$3,599,588.76
Commercial Licences	
Trapper Licences *	$38,189.00
Fur Dealer Licences *	$1,850.00
Tanner Licences *	$60.00
Taxidermist Licences *	$2,040.00
Shooting Preserve Licences	$550.00
Dog Trainer Licences	$415.00
Game Bird Farm Licences	$400.00
Amphibians and Reptiles Licences	$192.00
Total – Commercial	$43,696.00
Total Revenue	$3,643,284.76

* Reflects revenue for the 2002-03 Fur Year ending August 31, 2003.

Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring

The Section develops policies, plans and programs to secure, protect and enhance wildlife habitat on Crown and private land. The Section is responsible for the management of all lands designated for wildlife including Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Public Shooting Grounds, Refuges and Special Conservation Areas. Much of this is done through co-operative management and stewardship programs with regional staff of Manitoba Conservation, other government agencies, industry, non-government organisations and individuals.

The Section also co-ordinates the province's support for Manitoba's Heritage Marsh Program, which includes management for protection and enhancement, studies and inventories to support management recommendations, and the development of viewing, interpretive and access facilities. The Section also co-operates with Tourism Development in the provision of wildlife viewing facilities associated with the Watchable Wildlife Program.

The stewardship focus of the Section includes administration of ***The Conservation Agreements Act*** and providing the link between the Branch and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) in the delivery of habitat enhancement and protection programs.

Another key activity of the Section is monitoring the quality of Manitoba's terrestrial environment, which includes collecting data to determine the effects of industrial emissions and land-use changes on terrestrial ecosystem components (soil, vegetation, wildlife and habitat). Data that is collected and the extensive technical knowledge base of the Section provide scientific and technical support to maintain the quality of terrestrial ecosystems and restore previously degraded environments to healthy conditions.

The Section also provides technical environmental assessment input for development proposals such as environmental assessment reviews, land allocation, land entitlements, and sustainable development initiatives, so that land-use decision-making in Manitoba will be based on sound ecological principles and all potential environmental and habitat effects are considered.

Wildlife Lands Unit

Wildlife Management Area Program

Progress was made toward completing the management plan for the Churchill WMA. Public consultations will be undertaken regarding the possible Heritage Park designation for the former Rocket Range facilities and environs before the plan is finalized. An entrance sign for the Churchill WMA was installed. Approval was received to designate replacement lands for the Onanole WMA where boundaries were adjusted to accommodate a Treaty Land Entitlement request.

Habitat was enhanced in several Interlake WMAs. Standard boundary signs were produced for WMAs and Refuges.

Some 4,500 ha (11,000 acres) of additional lands in WMAs were made available for emergency agricultural use due to drought and other adverse conditions in the cattle industry. Approximately 2,000 ha (5,000 acres) were hayed and 2,500 ha (6,000 acres) were grazed in 30 WMAs. Other wildlife lands outside of WMAs were also made available for emergency agricultural use, totalling some 8,000 ha (20,000 acres) of which 4,000 ha (10,000 acres) were hayed and 4,000 ha (10,000 acres) were grazed.

Wildlife Management Areas Maintenance

Wildlife Enhancement Initiative funded maintenance and enhancement of WMAs, including prairie enhancement in Narcisse WMA, and weed control in several WMAs in southwestern Manitoba.

Land Management and Use

The Section reviewed over 500 land-use proposals for wildlife habitat impacts. These included applications for general permits and leases, sales, and exchanges of Crown land, Treaty Land Entitlement and municipal development plan and zoning by-laws and amendments. Policy proposals were reviewed to evaluate impacts on wildlife, habitat, land management, and use. Revised Crown Land Classification Committee (CLCC) policies were adopted regarding designation of WMAs and reasons for rejecting sales for wildlife-related reasons. A new policy was also approved regarding emergency agricultural use of wildlife lands.

Heritage Marsh Program

The Program targets marshes known to be of extraordinary importance to the well being of wildlife and humans. Eight Heritage Marshes are formally recognized (Saskeram, Summerberry, Delta, Oak Hammock, Rat River, Grants Lake, Proven Lake, and Lidcliff), and an additional 19 have been identified as candidate marshes.

Support continued for research on the ecological health and future of Delta Marsh. Recognized locally and internationally as an important prairie wetland, the marsh ecosystem has undergone significant negative change, in part due to relatively constant water levels brought on by the regulation of water levels on Lake Manitoba. Marshlands require a water regime that reflects natural wet and drought cycles to maintain their biodiversity. The University of Manitoba and Ducks Unlimited Canada also supported fish and vegetation studies. A major undertaking was the acquisition of high-resolution colour infrared aerial photography of the entire marsh in co-operation with the University of Manitoba Delta Marsh Field Station, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Manitoba Hydro. A vegetation map is being produced that will compare vegetation in 2003 with that photographed in 1997.

Interpretive facilities were enhanced at Whitewater Lake with the construction of an observation tower. Botulism is still a major threat to the mashes' bird life. The ongoing botulism-monitoring program was supported with a waterfowl-banding program conducted to determine the birds at risk.

Ducks Unlimited Canada's Western Boreal Forest Initiative's - Pasquia Project Area, in northwestern Manitoba received major funding support in its final year of operation. Ducks Unlimited Canada conducted this project in partnership with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Pew Charitable Trusts, Saskatchewan Environment, SaskPower, Louisiana Pacific Canada Ltd., Tembec Inc., Ducks Unlimited Inc. and Manitoba Conservation.

The range of purple loosestrife continues to expand, threatening important marsh ecosystems. Manitoba Conservation was a partner with Ducks Unlimited Canada, City of Winnipeg, The Murphy Foundation, Manitoba Rural Adaptations Council (MRAC) and TransCanada Pipelines in support of the Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project. Project objectives are to control purple loosestrife through research, management, and expansion of biological control programs. Approximately 18,600 beetles were raised and released as a biological control measure in 2003. The Department chairs the Project.

Critical Wildlife Habitat Program

This cost-shared program involves the Department, MHHC and other agencies on a project-specific basis. It supports projects to identify, preserve, and manage critical habitats, especially native grasslands and habitats of species at risk. The Program supports stewardship initiatives, mixed-grass prairie inventories, land management including native prairie management, and extension. The Department and MHHC fund many of these programs, while others are supported by other agencies. Critical Wildlife Habitat Program projects serve as a match for funds allocated by the federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

Tall Grass Prairie Preserve

The Department continued to chair the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Management Committee in 2003-04. Other agencies actively involved in the Preserve include MHHC, the Manitoba Naturalists Society, Environment Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The Committee produced an annual work plan for field activities at the Preserve and the Department supported delivery costs. Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Manitoba Naturalists Society supported monitoring and management activities on the Preserve. The Committee also revised the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Management Board Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which expired in May 2003. The MOU establishes the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Management Committee as the authority that will deal with ongoing management issues for the Preserve, with the aim towards renewing this document during the next five years.

Monitoring of rare orchids, insects, songbirds, permanent sample plots and management prescriptions continued to be among the key field activities on Preserve lands. In 2003, the Preserve had recorded the highest number of flowering western prairie fringed orchid plants with 23,530 flowers counted. A purple orchid similar to the western prairie fringed orchid was found for the first time in 2003. It was smaller than the white orchids and its taxonomy is currently under further investigation. A Green Team staff person was employed at the Preserve to assist with field activities. Burn management was undertaken on several sites to enhance the grassland components. Plant identification signs were replaced along the interpretive trail as required. Grazing demonstration sites were closely monitored because of concerns about invasive species such as red top and potential impacts on small white lady's slippers. Ongoing vegetation monitoring was carried out at the grazing project to determine the effects of grazing on the tall grass prairie ecosystem.

General inventory sampling and vegetation mapping was completed on 480 acres of land acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Special note was made of species listed as endangered, such as the western prairie fringed orchid.

The annual Prairie Day continued to be a successful event at the Preserve. It was well attended by local people, as well as visitors from outside the area. Field staff also participated in three parades (Vita's Canada Day parade, Gardenton's Ukrainian Festival parade, and Steinbach's Pioneer Days parade) to increase local awareness of the Preserve and tall grass prairie. An education program for nine school grades continued to be well-received and included field trips. Guided tours were offered through July and August.

Mixed-grass Prairie Projects

Inventory and grazing demonstration projects continued in the mixed-grass prairie region in the southwest. The status of mixed-grass prairie habitats were assessed in an area immediately south and east of the Ellice-Archie PFRA Community Pasture in the RM's of Archie, Miniota, Wallace and Woodworth. A total of 9,264 acres (3,746 hectares) were inventoried and 1.7 per cent were given a grade of B- or better, 82 per cent were C+ to C- and 16.2 per cent were D to D-.

A paper on mixed-grass prairie stewardship was presented at the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference in Calgary.

Monitoring of livestock weight-gains and grassland bird responses to the twice-over rotational grazing system, tours, and workshops continued under the Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Project in 2003-04. This project provided incentives to six landowners to set up the twice-over system on their farms for a total of 2,272 acres. Hairy prairie clover (threatened - COSEWIC) was found on one property, two sites contain buffalo grass (threatened - COSEWIC), and all sites are in the known range of Sprague's pipit (threatened - COSEWIC). These sites have been protected under five-year agreements to implement twice-over grazing systems.

Additional funding for both projects was provided by Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

Urban Habitat Stewardship Project

The Department continued to contribute to the City of Winnipeg Ecologically Significant Lands (ESL) Working Group in 2003-04. The group is working on an ESL plan for the management of natural areas owned and managed by the City of Winnipeg, which contain wildlife and plant communities native to Manitoba.

The Naturescape sub-committee of the Capital Region Habitat Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Naturalist's Society, the City of Winnipeg, Environment Canada and Fort Whyte Centre, continued to co-ordinate the production of ***Manitoba Naturescape***. The design portion of the project is nearing completion and the book is targeted for printing in the fall of 2004. This educational book, with information on native species and project ideas, is designed to help organizations and individuals transform small urban and rural areas, including backyards, into habitat.

Ecosystem Monitoring Unit

Ecosystem Monitoring

The Unit identifies, evaluates and manages risks to the environment and human health, using innovative, scientifically credible problem-solving methods within the following general areas:

- monitoring quality of the terrestrial environment (soils, vegetation, and wildlife);
- providing scientific and technical support toward maintaining quality of ecosystems and restoring degraded environments to healthy condition; and
- collecting data to assist in understanding the complex interactions of ecosystem components (soil, vegetation, wildlife, and habitat) so that land-use decision making will be based on sound ecological principles and all potential environmental effects of developments are considered.

The Unit maintains a network of monitoring sites and conducts issue-based environmental studies to define terrestrial ecosystem quality. The Unit liaises with peers in the scientific community and produces and distributes environmental information.

Activities included:

- Documenting impacts of contaminants and land-use practices on terrestrial ecosystems.
- Monitoring of soil and vegetation at permanent monitoring sites near Flin Flon to assess the long-term effects of emissions from the HBM&S smelter on the boreal forest ecosystems.
- Monitoring an acid mine drainage site near Flin Flon to study re-vegetation under different mitigation treatments.
- Monitoring forest sites treated with Round-up herbicide to determine the long-term effects on plant biodiversity.
- Establishing and maintaining data files.
- Monitoring to determine the degree and extent of contamination from accidental chemical release.
- Preparing reports and evaluating peer reports.
- Promoting development and application of guidelines, objectives and standards for terrestrial ecosystem components (includes participation in developing Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Canada-Wide Standards, and other guidelines and best practices for preventing environmental contamination from industry and other sources).
- Reviewing development proposals, identifying potential impacts, and making recommendations for licensing.
- Assessing applications for funding from the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund, and EcoAction2000.
- Providing scientific and technical support to government.
- Providing information and advice to the public, local and environmental groups, Aboriginal communities, consultants, industry, and other government jurisdictions.

Environmental Impact Assessment

In 2003-04, 114 ***Environment Act*** proposals or pre-clearances were reviewed, which is a 43 per cent increase over 2002-03. They included highway upgrades, wastewater-treatment facilities, crop protection warehouses, waste-disposal grounds, bulk fertilizer facilities, utility corridors, and town water supplies. Annual operating plans for Louisiana Pacific Canada, Tolko Manitoba, Tembec/Pine Falls Paper and Mountain Quota Holders Association were reviewed.

Forest-Wildlife Guidelines

The Branch initiated a detailed review of the *Forest Management Guidelines for Wildlife in Manitoba* (1989) to incorporate current science and staff experience. The revised document, *Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba, A Reference Document,* will be used to help both Branch and Regional staff decide on measures to mitigate disturbance and ecosystem impacts and in so doing secure the future of wildlife and its habitat in Manitoba.

Project WILD

Project WILD is an environmental education program, sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, emphasizing wildlife and implemented under agreements with each province's wildlife agency. Project WILD activities were developed for use in the Grade Four science curriculum. Teachers are required to attend an in-service training workshop, usually conducted jointly by a wildlife specialist and a trained workshop facilitator. Last year, eight Project WILD workshops were delivered; four were held at the University of Manitoba for the education students; one was held at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre; one was held at Brandon University for the education students; and two were delivered at the annual SAG Conference for teachers.

Table WI.10

12.4(g)3 Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
			$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	737.9	13.00	777.9	(40.0)	
Other Expenditures	92.1		97.5	(5.4)	
Grant Assistance	645.0		645.0	0.0	
Total Other Expenditures	737.1		742.5	(5.4)	

Biodiversity Conservation

The Section provides information and services to sustain Manitoba's natural biological diversity.

Endangered Species Advisory Committee

Staff from the Biodiversity Conservation Section prepare wildlife species status reports for the Endangered Species Advisory Committee, established under ***The Endangered Species Act*** to advise the Minister on species at risk. Declaring a species as "extirpated", "endangered" or "threatened" assists its protection, thereby enhancing its survival in Manitoba. Population numbers and trends, distribution, habitat needs, and threats are criteria used to assess the conservation status of species.

The Committee met June 3 and 4, 2003 to review assessment criteria, time frames for reassessments, and to deliberate on the status of nine species. These included the Least Bittern (report deferred pending inclusion of new survey information), the Smooth Goosefoot (Data Deficient), the Wolverine and Red-headed Woodpecker (Special Concern) and five species determined to be "Not at Risk" (Bigmouth Buffalo, Bigmouth Shiner, Chestnut Lamprey, Silver Chub, and Ivory Gull). No new species were declared as extirpated, endangered, or threatened under the Act in 2003.

The distribution of fact sheets on Manitoba's Species at Risk continued, and plans are under way to expand the fact sheet series in the coming year. Artwork was purchased for a number of new fact sheets and additional partnerships with other agencies are being pursued for funding and distribution.

Federal-Provincial Initiatives under Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada

Participation on international and federal-provincial working groups and committees ensures that Manitoba's efforts to conserve biological diversity are co-ordinated with those of other countries and Canadian jurisdictions. Implementing programs for species at risk and biodiversity demonstrates Manitoba's commitment to the Accord and the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy.

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): The federal ***Species at Risk Act (SARA)*** assented to on June 5, 2003 legally established COSEWIC. Manitoba contributed to the restructuring of COSEWIC, its procedures and is one of 30 voting COSEWIC members. Department staff participate in the national assessment process of determining which species are at risk by reviewing and contributing to status reports. The COSEWIC review process has incorporated a new World Conservation Union-based assessment criterion system and the committee has established an Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge subcommittee.

The National Recovery Working Group: Manitoba is an active member of this working group that facilitates the recovery of nationally endangered wildlife. The national recovery program for species at risk was redesigned to better meet Accord requirements and to integrate recovery requirements of the Canadian ***Species at Risk Act (SARA)***. A Recovery Operations Manual (ROMAN) has been revised to assist national recovery teams and local recovery action groups. This manual describes the species recovery processes, responsibilities and products required under ***SARA***. Three documents will initiate and guide recovery action for each endangered or threatened species: *Response Statement, Recovery Strategy, and Recovery Action Plan*.

Report on the General Status of Wildlife in Canada: In 1998, the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council requested that federal and provincial/territorial governments co-operate to assess and report on general status of wildlife (including plants) every five years, starting in 2000. A federal-provincial working group was established. Manitoba reviewed and assessed the general status of hundreds of plants and animals, including ferns, orchids, butterflies, freshwater fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Work is underway towards producing the next report (2005) that will re-assess those species included in the 2000 report, plus new species groups including all the remaining vascular plants, dragonflies, tiger beetles, marine fishes, freshwater mussels and crayfish. Considerable resources are required, but the results will help set conservation priorities for many species at risk and biodiversity programs and ***The Endangered Species Act***.

During the year, section staff reviewed and assessed the general status of freshwater mussels and crayfish in Manitoba. In addition, Manitoba chaired a national dragonfly status assessment workshop in Ottawa on November 22, 2003. National conservation status ranks were assigned to 209 dragonfly species. This was timely because dragonflies are now being considered for more detailed status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) under the Arthropod Species Specialist Subcommittee. Finally, over 700 species of vascular plants (about one-half of the dicots or plants with seedlings that have two leaves) were assessed and submitted for a future national assessment.

It is appropriate to acknowledge the myriad of amateur naturalists and professional biologists in Manitoba who donated their time and expertise to help with this and other provincial conservation status assessments. Over the years, hundreds of Manitoba citizens have been studying, collecting and identifying species that contribute to this process.

Biodiversity Convention Office: Manitoba participates on a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Biodiversity Working Group that is implementing programs outlined in the report to Wildlife Ministers, *Working Together—Priorities for Collaborative Action to Implement the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy 2001-2006*. Implementation priorities include:

- Biodiversity science agenda, including bio-infomatics;
- Reporting on status and trends in biodiversity, including monitoring;
- Alien invasive species; and
- Eco-citizenship, including stewardship.

In September 2003, Manitoba and the Biodiversity Convention Office demonstrated to Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council how the sharing of distributed species at risk data results in more efficient conservation programs. Manitoba's Conservation Data Centre is the most essential component of our ability to contribute to the aforementioned ACCORD and its many programs.

Conservation Data Centre

The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is a storehouse of information on Manitoba's plant and animal species, including Manitoba's Endangered and Threatened species. The CDC is a member of NatureServe (www.natureserve.org) and NatureServe Canada, a network of 75 similar centres monitoring biodiversity throughout the Western Hemisphere. Section staff maintains current lists of plant and animal species and communities found in Manitoba and assign each of them a conservation status rank based on how rare they are in Manitoba. They then collect detailed information on where the provincially rare species and communities have been found. These locations, known as element occurrences, are mapped in a Geographic Information System (GIS) and entered in a database using standards common to all CDC's. The information has many uses, including conservation and development planning, and is made available to government, the private sector, and the public.

In 2003-04, the CDC upgraded to version 4 of the Biotics® database and mapping software, the standard used throughout NatureServe. The software was originally developed for the Manitoba CDC by Linnet, a Winnipeg-based company. The CDC Co-ordinator attended the NatureServe Canada 2003 Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, and attended a NatureServe Board meeting in Arlington, Virginia to outline activities taking place at the Manitoba CDC - the first time a Canadian CDC Co-ordinator was given this honour. NatureServe Canada is currently working with Environment Canada, Parks Canada Agency, Natural Resources Canada and other national government and non-government agencies on behalf of all Canadian CDC's to address common areas of interest.

Information Management

The Section responds to hundreds of information requests annually. Requests came from federal and provincial governments, consultants, Nature Conservancy Canada, Ducks Unlimited, Natural Heritage programs in the US, secondary schools, universities and others (organizations, industry and individuals). Numerous requests were used for environmental impact assessments.

Further upgrades of the Biotics® database software continue. The software allows for more accurate representations of the biodiversity within the province and improves our ability to provide useful land management information. We continue to strive to provide the best information on the biodiversity of Manitoba.

As a part of a North American network of similar organizations under the umbrella of NatureServe, the CDC completes an annual exchange of data integrating Manitoba's data with the entire network.

Table WI.11
Status of the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre's Biodiversity Information Database

Information Type	Plant	Animal	Community	Other[1]	Total
Number of Elements[2]	2,663	1,236	174	8	4,081
Number of Rare to Uncommon Elements	557	57	71	0	678
Number of Element Occurrences[3]	1,669	1,819	70	424	4,052

Notes:

1. Includes elements such as waterbird colonies, and snake and bat hibernacula.
2. The Element Provincial Tracking database allows information to be gathered on plant, animal, community and other elements.
3. A specific example of a plant, animal or vegetative community at a specific geographic location.

Botany/Ecology

Rare Plant Surveys

Fieldwork was conducted at more than 75 sites to search for locations of more than 30 provincially rare species, including the endangered Small White Lady's-slipper and Western Prairie Fringed Orchid, and the threatened Western Silvery Aster. These surveys, in conjunction with changes in methodology, led to as many as 500 new or updated records being documented in the CDC database.

Co-operative Initiatives

Co-operative efforts continued with neighbouring jurisdictions:

- Work continued on the Aspen Parkland eco-regional planning exercise with Nature Conservancy of Canada, and neighbouring provinces and states. This exercise will lead to the completion of a Conservation Blueprint for future work by Nature Conservancy Canada, Manitoba Conservation, and other partners.
- Biodiversity Conservation Section continued its close relationship with Nature Conservancy Canada in the development of a Site Conservation Plan for the Tallgrass Aspen Parkland site in southeastern Manitoba. This plan, once completed, will identify priority conservation sites and activities in this internationally recognized globally endangered ecosystem.
- Work continued on the development of a Canadian National Vegetation Classification, with Canadian Forest Service, Parks Canada, NatureServe and counterparts in other provinces and territories.
- Collaboration with the National Recovery Team for Plant Species at Risk in Prairie Canada continued. Representatives from the provincial and federal agencies in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have agreed to work co-operatively to meet national recovery requirements for SARA-listed plant species.

Zoology

Invertebrate Monitoring and Assessment

Section staff reviewed and assessed the conservation status of dragonflies, freshwater mussels and crayfish in Manitoba. Inventories and monitoring were done in co-operation with volunteers and researchers from Brandon University and the University of Manitoba. Several species, including the Mapleleaf Shell (a mussel) and the River Jewelwing (a dragonfly) may be in decline and require a more detailed assessment of their status.

Fieldwork was conducted at 72 sites looking for the Calico Crayfish which was previously known from only two locations in Manitoba. It was found at 16 of these sites including one, which is the northern-most known occurrence of this species in the world.

Co-operation continued with the J. B. Wallis Entomological Museum at the University of Manitoba and the provincial status ranking of the spiders of Manitoba is nearing completion.

The volunteer-based Dragonfly Survey continues to provide new specimen records since its inception in 1999. Over 230 volunteers have contributed over 2,000 specimens to date. The survey data contributed to both provincial and national status assessments of this charismatic micro-fauna.

Narcisse WMA Snake Dens

Many Manitobans and non-residents visit the red-sided garter snake hibernacula at Narcisse each spring. Staff interpreters are on hand during times of peak emergence to explain the snakes' life history and significance of the dens. The abundance of snakes provides an opportunity for snake researchers to conduct studies on the ecology, physiology and reproductive biology of the species and Narcisse continues to attract biologists from as far away as Oregon and Australia.

During the 1990s, the number of migrating snakes killed annually on PTH #17 adjacent to Narcisse snake dens became a concern and mitigation efforts began with the Narcisse snake tunnel project. The project was completed last year with the installation of three culverts under the highway to provide a safe route for the snakes. Thirteen culverts, with drift fences to guide snakes towards the culverts, have reduced mortality by about 75 per cent. Refinements to the fences are expected to reduce mortality even further.

The Narcisse WMA interpretive program, in co-operation with the Manitoba/Quebec Exchange Program, provided a placement for a university student from Quebec to offer tours of the snake hibernacula in French. The success of this year's placement will lead to future opportunities for exchange students.

Peregrine Falcon Recovery Project

Peregrine falcons had poor reproductive success in 2003. No young were produced at either the Radisson Hotel nest site in downtown Winnipeg or the MacKenzie Seeds building in downtown Brandon. There was some breeding behaviour at a third location near Brandon, and monitoring of these and other potential sites will continue by volunteers with the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Committee. Parkland Mews, in partnership with Manitoba Conservation, completed construction of a captive breeding facility for this endangered raptor. The placement of two pairs and one single peregrine in this building has implemented a key part of Manitoba's recovery plan for this species.

Piping Plovers

Funding from the Manitoba Special Conservation Fund and the federal Habitat Stewardship Fund supported piping plover monitoring and stewardship activities in 2003. A preliminary management plan and recovery strategy for Manitoba was drafted in 2002 and included analysis of historic sites and other suitable habitat.

A total of 26 adults (12 pairs) were found nesting at Clandeboye Bay, Stony Beach, Gull Bay, Riverton Sandy Bar, Grand Marais and Grand Beach. High water levels on West Shoal Lake, a primary nesting area in the past, precluded any nesting at this location for the sixth consecutive year. A total of 14 nests were monitored including two re-nests. Half were successful raising approximately eight chicks to fledging age. Recovery activities undertaken in 2003 included fencing and signage at four major nesting sites to reduce the chances of nests being disturbed by humans or ATV's; exclosure cages installed on eight nests to protect them from predators; and a Piping Plover Guardian Program at Grand Beach to protect nests and increase public awareness and participation at this key site.

A provincial Piping Plover Recovery Action Group was formed and met twice in 2003 to direct future stewardship and recovery activities. This group includes representatives from Manitoba Conservation, the Canadian Wildlife Service and several interest groups and individuals that have been actively involved in Piping Plover recovery in Manitoba.

Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Monitoring & Stewardship

Monitoring of nesting populations of the endangered eastern (*migrans*) subspecies of the loggerhead shrike in southeastern Manitoba revealed a slight decline to six nesting pairs and one single bird during 2003. Although this was only one pair less than the 2002 total, numbers have dwindled considerably from the 11 nesting pairs observed as recently as 2000. Most nesting shrikes continue to be found on suburban properties in the RM of West St Paul on the northern outskirts of Winnipeg, but one pair and a single bird were found in a golf course on the west end of Winnipeg. All six pairs nested successfully, and one of two pairs that attempted a second nest (after fledging young from their first nest) was successful. Although second nesting attempts are noted with some regularity among shrike populations in the southern U.S., this was the first time that a second nesting has been observed for loggerhead shrikes in southeastern Manitoba.

Stewardship and monitoring of eastern loggerheads continue to be co-ordinated by the Eastern Manitoba Recovery Action Group (EMRAG), which includes representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Cattle Producers Association, Manitoba Hydro, Ducks Unlimited, the Portage Natural History Group, and other local interest groups and individuals. Stewardship initiatives include increasing public awareness and support for landowners that wish to preserve habitat for this endangered species.

Grassland Bird Species Monitoring and Management

Wildlife native to prairie has suffered greater losses since settlement than wildlife from any other habitat. The Grassland Species at Risk Program oversees monitoring and management of grassland species at risk. Target species include those designated as threatened or endangered under ***The Endangered Species Act***, including the burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, loggerhead shrike, Sprague's pipit and Baird's sparrow.

Despite intensive management and re-introductions of burrowing owls in Manitoba since the mid-1980s, nesting populations have dwindled to where there are few remaining in the province (none were seen or reported in 2003, but there are still believed to be a few unreported nesting pairs in the province). Declines have been equally steep in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the species is in danger of being extirpated across the Canadian prairies.

Nesting ferruginous hawks returned to Manitoba in 1984, after an absence of nearly 60 years. Population increases during the 1980s can be credited to more widespread protection, enhanced public attitudes towards hawks and raptors in general, and the provision of nesting platforms. By 1990, the nesting population had increased to 56 pairs. During the 1990s, reduced productivity due to a widespread population crash in its primary prey, the Richardson's ground squirrel or prairie gopher, resulted in nesting numbers dropping to 36 pairs by 2002. But, ground squirrel numbers are rebounding slightly in the southwest, resulting in enhanced ferruginous hawk nesting success. During 2003, 40 nesting pairs of ferruginous hawks were observed and nest success was excellent in most nesting areas. As in other recent years, more than three-quarters of the nesting pairs used artificial nest platforms during 2003. The platforms, which are actually nesting baskets filled with sticks, look identical to natural nests. But they have been more successful because they are placed in sturdier trees, are near extensive hunting pastures, and are situated as far as possible from potential disturbance.

Nesting populations of the western loggerhead shrike in southwestern Manitoba rebounded strongly from 59 nesting pairs in 2002 to 82 in 2003. Nevertheless, this total is still far fewer than the high of 327 pairs that were recorded as recently as 1993. Much of the recent declines have been attributed to extended wet and cool stretches of weather during June in most summers since 1993 contributing to reduced nesting success. Although weather was not a major factor in 2003, monitored nests showed high levels of predation on eggs and young. Consequently, only half of the 55 nests that were monitored, successfully raised young. A total of 192 young and seven adults were banded during 2003. Banding data since 1987 has revealed unusually low return rates of shrike adults and young, suggesting that elevated mortality on the nesting grounds, as well as on migration and in wintering areas, may be contributing to ongoing declines.

Owl Monitoring

The Great Gray Owl monitoring project entered its 20th year. Nesting density and reproductive success remained high relative to the population crash in 2001 due to continued high prey availability. Collaborative efforts continued with the University of Guelph and The Owl Research and Rehabilitation Foundation, both in Ontario, to examine the potential impact of West Nile Virus on Manitoba's provincial bird emblem.

Manitoba's nocturnal owl survey underwent a major change in spring 2003. With the creation of a national owl survey database (maintained by Bird Studies Canada, Port Rowan, Ontario), data from across Canada will be integrated into one system. To facilitate this change, Manitoba switched to scannable datasheets, which can be 'read' by the computer instead of being entered by hand. Over 260 owls were detected by 162 volunteers who completed 107 survey routes for the 2003 Manitoba Nocturnal Owl Survey. Northern Saw-whet Owls showed a dramatic increase in 2003 while Boreal Owls remained at relatively low levels. This survey was kindly supported in part by Manitoba Hydro and Bird Studies Canada. A summary of the 2003 Manitoba survey can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/involved/pdf/owl_survey_2003.pdf

A new volunteer-based daytime survey, specific to Short-eared Owls, was undertaken in summer 2003 to track populations of this species of conservation concern in North America. Programs such as the Christmas Bird Count, Breeding Bird Survey and the Nocturnal Owl Survey inadequately monitor this species in Manitoba and elsewhere. Data from 2003 is being assessed to determine if this diurnal survey method will yield suitable information to monitor this vagrant grassland dependant raptor.

A new study on urban Eastern Screech Owls in Manitoba was initiated in 2003. The habits of this species are poorly understood in Manitoba. Under the auspices of Manitoba Conservation, a graduate student is undertaking a master's research project with the Faculty of Environment at the University of Manitoba. The student will assess the population density and habitat preferences of Eastern Screech Owl in the Winnipeg and surrounding areas. Eastern Screech Owls are an exciting example of wildlife in our city, and monitoring this environmental "barometer" in urban areas provides information on how cities can be sustainable habitats for wildlife and people. In order to find owls, the student will organize an "urban" extension of the Manitoba Nocturnal Owl survey. Individuals can learn to recognise the calls of the nocturnal Eastern Screech Owl by visiting www.owlpages.com/species/otus/asio/Default.htm and clicking on the calls below the picture.

Breeding Bird Survey

Staff promote and co-ordinate involvement in the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). A total of 45 BBS routes were surveyed by volunteers throughout Manitoba during 2003. The BBS assesses changes in abundance and distribution of birds along predetermined routes that are surveyed using standard protocol at the same time of the year and by the same individuals each year. It is especially useful for assessing the status of songbird species that are not monitored adequately by other surveys. Local and national BBS data reveal that more species are increasing than are decreasing. The data also reveals that certain groups, such as grassland-nesting birds, have undergone significant declines since BBS surveys began (1966).

Polar Bears

A summary of ***The Polar Bear Protection Act*** and regulations was presented at an international conference on Polar Bear husbandry hosted by Polar Bears International and The American Zoo and Aquarium Association. The Act and regulations govern the circumstances under which a polar bear from Manitoba may be placed in captivity and the facility standards and level of care that must be provided for a captive polar bear. These standards are widely considered to be among the best in the world and several international zoo associations are considering adopting them.

There were no bears placed in any facility in 2003-04. The 2003 polar bear season at Churchill was one of the most active to date, with approximately 360 incidents being reported and 176 bears being handled.

The Department was awarded Polar Bear International's Excellence in Leadership Award for 2004 for its work in developing facility and husbandry standards.

Woodland Caribou

A revised draft Woodland Caribou Conservation Strategy is almost completed and will be sent for review early in the next fiscal year. The Strategy identifies four ranges at risk and lays out a strategy, which is intended to secure the future of these boreal nomads.

A monitoring program for woodland caribou on the Kississing-Naosap range in the northwest region continues. Geographical Positioning System (GPS) radio collars placed on animals in 2002-03 were removed; the stored data downloaded; and the collars re-deployed on 11 animals for another year of data gathering.

An integrated woodland caribou/forest management plan which Manitoba Conservation developed in partnership with Tembec Industries (Pine Falls Operations), the Manitoba Model Forest, First Nation communities and other partners, continues to be implemented on Owl-Flintstone Lakes range (east of Lake Winnipeg). GPS collars were removed from animals on this range as well as the Atikaki-Berens range and the data downloaded. Twelve GPS collars are currently deployed on caribou from the aforementioned ranges.

Chitek Lake Wood Bison Project

The Chitek Lake Wood Bison herd continues to grow and the last aerial census recorded a new high of 152 animals including 17 calves. Not all animals are seen during an aerial census, which means the herd is somewhat larger than this number.

Funding from the federal Habitat Stewardship Fund has allowed for a preliminary wood bison habitat assessment in an area that encompasses Chitek Lake and Sisib Lake, approximately 50 kilometres north of Waterhen. The assessment involved the identification of vegetation communities in the study area, the characterization of these communities by ground inventory and documentation of the communities wood bison were using. This work will help to determine critical habitats essential to the range expansion, growth and long term health of the herd as it approaches the National Recovery Plan target level of 400+ animals.

Table WI.12
12.4(g)4 Biodiversity Conservation

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	297.5	5.00	301.2	(3.7)	
Total Other Expenditures	78.7		80.0	(1.3)	

Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement

Ideal fall harvest conditions in Agro-Manitoba enabled farmers to complete the cereal harvest by early September, before the arrival of large numbers of waterfowl. These conditions, together with early spring seeding, resulted in below-average waterfowl crop damage across Manitoba. Field delivery of the Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program cost $329,423.63, of which Canada contributed $151,000. However, $20,000 was reallocated from the initial operating budget of $350,400 to supplement Chronic Wasting Disease Monitoring Program expenditures.

The Program operated two feeding stations and eight Crown lands lure crops in damage-prone areas. The Program lends farmers cracker shells, scarecrows and propane scare cannons to protect crops. A total of 23 scare cannon depots were set up to provide farmers ready access to equipment.

The Program operated under the Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement. This Agreement, signed in March 2002 and retroactive to April 2000, maintains Canada's participation in, and cost-shared funding of the Program until March 31, 2004.

Table WI.13

12.4(g) 5 Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Other Expenditures	329.4		350.4	(21.0)	

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative

The Fund provided a grant to Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation in support of the co-operative Critical Wildlife Habitat Program. The grant funds supported stewardship initiatives targeted at species at risk and prevention activities, including mixed-grass prairie inventories, land management, (including native prairie management), and extension initiatives.

The Initiative continued to support wildlife and habitat management projects with funds from a special impost on hunting licences. Hunter-funded projects included:

- Improved problem bear management near Provincial Parks. Live-trapping and relocating problem black bears is costly and may be ineffective. Further study may point to the need for alternate means of resolving bear concerns.
- Fieldwork to assess and control escaped wild boar, to protect wildlife and ecology. In view of deepening concerns about habitat destruction and disease transmission (to wildlife and domestic swine), the Department continues to monitor the prevalence of escaped wild boar in Manitoba and has contacted wildlife management agencies in other provinces and states.
- Support for threatened woodland caribou herds. Delineating habitat requirements for woodland caribou, using tracking by telemetry, and assessing these issues in light of economic development plans (such as forestry) is essential to survival.
- Maintenance for Wildlife Management Areas. Signs have been posted, forage plots developed, and necessary weed control undertaken.
- Enhanced public information on Branch Web site. The Internet has become an important tool for disseminating information to the public. Updating and enhancing our Web site is on-going.
- Support to Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre that provides valuable information and advice on wildlife diseases and their management.
- Enhanced Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance was funded through this initiative. Collection and testing of 350 hunter-harvested white-tailed deer from southwestern Manitoba and 200 elk from the Riding Mountain area was undertaken. Information about CWD was provided to hunters and the public.

Table WI.14

12.4(g)6 Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Other Expenditures	208.2		225.0	(16.8)	

Pollution Prevention

Pollution prevention is defined as the use of processes, practices, materials, products, substances or energy that avoids or minimizes the creation of pollutants and waste, and reduces the overall risk to the environment and human health. Working co-operatively with local governments, non-government organizations, business and industry associations and other agencies, the Branch promotes pollution prevention initiatives, and supports these initiatives through grant funding programs. The Branch develops regulations and programs to protect the environment and develops and distributes educational and informational materials to client groups.

The Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act and ***The Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Act*** are administered by the Branch. The Branch manages the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) and three of its broad allocations, and co-chairs the working groups responsible for government-wide implementation of Procurement Guidelines and Code of Practice, among other duties under ***The Sustainable Development Act***.

Branch activities are divided into four program areas:

1. Waste Reduction and Prevention,
2. Pollution Prevention,
3. Environmentally Sustainable Practices, and
4. Funding Programs

Waste Reduction and Prevention

The Branch works to reduce solid waste going to waste disposal grounds. Significant progress was made in developing and promoting sustainable alternatives to waste disposal.

Since ***The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act*** was adopted (1990), recycling has increased substantially. Over 50% of packaging and paper products generated by households are now being recycled. Manitoba's product stewardship programs continue to provide dedicated resources to improve diversion of materials from landfills.

According to the 2002 Statistics Canada *Survey of Waste Disposal, Diversion and Generation*, Manitoba achieved a waste diversion rate of 20% in 2002. Per capita waste disposal decreased from 798 to 786 kilograms between 2000 and 2002. Manitoba's waste diversion performance continues to improve as a result of its product stewardship initiatives, improved waste disposal system operation and increased waste reduction activities by local government and Institutional, Commercial and Industrial (ICI) sectors. The Canadian average waste disposal rate is 791 kilograms per person. Manitoba's goal is 500 kgs per person of solid waste disposed at landfills.

The Branch continued to focus on programs that aim to:

- promote producer responsibility for post-consumer product management;
- encourage strategic public private sector partnerships to address environmental issues;
- reduce volume of waste generated and disposed;
- separate hazardous from non-hazardous waste; and
- improve waste management facility operations.

The Branch continued to support the activities of the Northern Waste Management Committee and development of regional recycling networks throughout the province, and support and promote partnerships with non-government organizations to provide public information on waste reduction, composting, pollution prevention, green commuting and climate change.

The Branch emphasized the development of composting facilities by municipalities to divert organic waste from landfill in 2003/04 and supported the promotion of backyard composting.

Work continued on the implementation of the National Electronics Stewardship Program, as well as green procurement practices and policies for government.

The branch was involved in discussions centered on the establishment of Efficiency Manitoba, a new initiative intended to coordinate provincial resource and energy conservation efforts. Staff prepared a paper examining changes in volumes of hazardous waste management in Manitoba and projecting what the future emphasis might be. Staff also worked with the International Institute for Sustainable Development to prepare a document examining revenue options for the Department of Conservation.

Staff continued to participate on committees such as the City of Winnipeg's Waste Minimization Advisory Committee and CCME Composting Task Group. The Branch also promoted and supported activities related to Waste Reduction Week. In partnership with stewardship agencies and Resource Conservation Manitoba, the Branch helped establish www.reducingwaste.ca, a Manitoba Waste Reduction Website.

The Branch also promoted extended producer responsibility initiatives by hosting a Plastics Stewardship Workshop in partnership with the University of Manitoba and participating in the 3rd National Workshop on Extended Producer Responsibility in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In partnership with the Solid Waste Association of North America—Canadian Prairie Chapter, the Branch was involved in organizing Manitoba's Waste Reduction Conference in Brandon, April 28-30, 2003. Staff also initiated planning for consultation to update Manitoba's Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) strategy.

Multi-Material Recycling

The Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC) is a statutory corporation, established in 1995 under the Multi-Material Stewardship (Interim Measures) Regulation. Managed by a ten member stakeholder Board of Directors, the mandate of the MPSC is to implement waste reduction programs for designated product packaging and paper products.

The MPSC submitted a new three-year Business Plan to the Minister of Conservation for the period of 2004-2007 on February 9, 2004. The MPSC's 2004-2007 Business Plan is the fourth Business Plan developed by the Corporation since 1995. The Branch initiated an analysis of the Business Plan as part of the Plan Approval process. Additional information and public input is to be obtained through a two-part public consultation process to supplement the analysis.

In 2002/03, the Corporation supported 190 recycling programs managed by Manitoba municipal corporations, Community Councils, First Nations and provincial parks. The MPSC collected $7 million in beverage container levies and paid out over $6.6 million in Municipal Recycling Support Payments to recycling program operators (an increase of 14% over the previous year). Municipal recycling programs continue to recover more resources annually. Manitoba's recycling system recovered over 49,367 metric tonnes of an estimated 87,650 metric tonnes (56%) of eligible material. On average, Manitobans recycled an estimated 42.5 kgs/person from their homes in 2002/03. At the time of reporting, figures for 2003/04 were not yet available.

The Branch participated in the MPSC's regional recycling meetings and Business Plan Consultations in Brandon and Winnipeg. In March 2004, a representative of the Pollution Prevention Branch was appointed to the MPSC Board of Directors.

Table P2.1

Material Recovery Rates 2002

Eligible Material	Total Tonnes Recovered	Measured Generation (Tonnes)	Recovery Rate
Newspapers, magazines, flyers, telephone directories	30,323	35,651	85%
Glass containers	6,129	13,862	44%
Boxboard	2,644	9,683	27%
Corrugated Cardboard	5,507	10,722	47%
Steel Cans	1,884	6,226	30%
PET #1 plastic containers	1209	2,744	44%
HDPE #2 plastic containers	970	3,881	25%
Aluminum cans	648	1,894	34%
Polycoat and Aseptic containers	444	2,117	21%
#4, 5 & 7 Plastics	61	871	4%
Total	**49,367**	**87,651**	**56%**

Regional Waste Management

Through the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) and the Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund, the Branch continued to support local government development of regional waste managemen systems. In 2003/04, two waste transfer stations were supported with $50,000 in funding.

Twenty-five projects were supported under the WRAPP Fund, resulting in over 1,500 tonnes of organic waste being diverted from landfill and reduction of 1,100 tonnes of GHG emission.

Work continued on the development of the Thompson regional recycling network. Financial support for a regiona recycling coordinator position in partnership with North Central Development is being provided. In addition, work on implementation of the Northern Scrap Metal project continued in partnership with the Government of Nunavut, northern communities and federal government departments.

Tire Recycling

The Tire Stewardship Board's (TSB) Scrap Tire Recycling Program (established 1995) is funded by a $2.80 lev on new tires sold for licensed vehicles.

Tire recycling rates rose to 1,475,542 PTEs (Passenger Tire Equivalents) from last year's 1,082,823 PTEs. This increase reflects the clean up of off-road tires and further post-fire recovery of processing at the expanded Tire Recycling Corporation of North America facility in Winkler.

Five active processors recycled 1,475,542 Passenger Tire Equivalents (PTEs). Sales of car, light truck and medium truck tires were 794,990 tires. The Board raised $2,190,783 in levies and paid recyclers $2,694,48 million in credit incentives. The cost to recycle a PTE was $2.17.

Table P2.2
Products from Manitoba Scrap Tires in 2003/2004

Product	PTEs	Percent of Total
Shred	1,058,664	72%
Moulded Products	196,868	13%
Tire-Derived Fuel	183,504	12%
Blasting Mats	33,945	2%
Cut Products	3,011	0.2%
TOTAL PTEs Recycled	**1,475,542**	

The TSB submitted a new three-year Business Plan to the Minister of Conservation on March 18, 2004. The Branch initiated an analysis of the Business Plan as part of the Plan Approval process. Additional information and public input is to be obtained through a two-part public consultation process to supplement the analysis.

Used Oil Recycling

The *Used Oil, Oil Filters and Containers Stewardship Regulation* prohibits sale of lubricating oil products unless the vendor is registered and belongs to the stewardship program operated by Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corporation (MARRC). MARRC has 126 members. As part of their membership agreement, vendors must pay Environmental Handling Charges based on product sales. There were 53 Eco-Centres established in partnership with municipal governments and ten privately operated depots. Applications have been made to expand the depot network in Winnipeg to include six Canadian Tire Stores and a Wal-Mart.

Purchases of lubricating products increased slightly from last year. Oil recovery grew slightly to 11.9 million litres of used oil out of 15 million litres available. Filter recovery grew slightly to 1,510,000 filters of 2 million available. Container recovery increased 9% to 179,000 kgs while 840,000 kgs are available. Staff also met with representatives of South Africa's Rose Foundation who came to Manitoba to see first hand how the products stewardship program operates.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

The Branch continued managing the contract with Miller Environmental to support household hazardous waste management. Under the contract, 30 collection events are held throughout Manitoba annually. The HHW collection program sponsored 14 rural and 16 Winnipeg events and collected 501 tonnes of household hazardous wastes. This total was 5% more than was collected in 2002/03. A total of 6,329 vehicles were serviced, an increase of 14%. Total value of the contract was $643,020.21.

Table P2.3

Manitoba's Household Hazardous Waste Program

Material Collected April to March (Litres)

	Wpg 03	*Wpg 04*	*Change*	*Rural 03*	*Rural 04*	*Change*	*2003*	*2004*	*Change*
Acid solutions	2,687	2,142	*-20%*	777	1,183	*52%*	3,463	3,325	*-4%*
Alkaline solutions	6,896	7,903	*15%*	1,960	2,590	*32%*	8,856	10,493	*18%*
Aqueous salts	451	205	*-55%*	-	308	*NA*	451	513	*14%*
Miscellaneous - Inorganic	140,049	125,115	*-11%*	40,077	54,612	*36%*	180,126	179,727	*0%*
Non halogenated solvents	49,008	49,075	*0%*	10,708	12,536	*17%*	59,716	61,611	*3%*
Fuels	103	808	*684%*	410	21	*-95%*	513	828	*61%*
Resins and plastics	147,471	154,622	*5%*	26,809	43,905	*64%*	174,280	198,527	*14%*
Halogenated organic waste	7,776	7,256	*-7%*	2,183	2,839	*30%*	9,959	10,095	*1%*
Oily wastes	1,454	785	*-46%*	574	1,363	*137%*	2,028	2,148	*6%*
Miscellaneous - Organic	3,157	2,898	*-8%*	2,223	1,792	*-19%*	5,380	4,689	*-13%*
Aerosols/compressed gases	12,057	5,659	*-53%*	3,890	2,549	*-34%*	15,947	8,208	*-49%*
PCB ballasts	125	1,750	*1300%*	37	129	*249%*	162	1,879	*1060%*
Subtotal	371,178	358,217	*-3%*	89,645	123,824	*38%*	460,823	482,041	*5%*
Batteries, Acid filled	10,003	9,263	*-7%*	3,499	5,461	*56%*	13,502	14,724	*9%*
Propane Bottles	3,730	4,022	*8%*	168	477	*184%*	3,898	4,499	*15%*
Total quantity	**384,911**	**371,502**	***-3%***	**93,144**	**129,762**	***39%***	**478,055**	**501,264**	***5%***
							-	-	
Total Number of Vehicles	*4,033*	*4,306*	*7%*	*1,526*	*2,023*	*33%*	*5,559*	*6,329*	*14%*

In December 2002, the proposed *Hazardous or Prescribed Household Waste Stewardship Regulation* was put on hold. The Branch has pursued educational strategies for improving the management of hazardous waste. The branch participated in a CCME led stakeholders group on the management of mercury switches. Staff also met with local stakeholders in the automotive repair/recycling sector to examine opportunities for improved management of spent mercury based switches. Staff continued efforts to improve the management of mercury based lighting.

The Branch continued to work towards improved management of electronic wastes. The results of the 2002 electronics stewardship pilot project were compiled and released during Waste Reduction Week in October.

The Electronic Product Stewardship Organization of Manitoba (EPSOM) collected and processed 93.5 tonnes of consumer electronic waste. Computer-related items represented 38% of the waste collected at the six depots, which were set up at locations in Winnipeg and Stonewall. The remaining 62% were comprised of TV's and other consumer e-waste, such as VCRs, stereos, and small appliances.

Disposal of electronic equipment is a concern because it contains heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury. EPSOM calculated that the TV picture tubes and computer monitors alone contained 1,439 kilograms of lead. Lead is a heavy metal that can cause permanent health problems in adults and learning and behaviour complications in young children. This project kept 5,861 kilograms of lead, eight kilograms of cadmium and two kilograms of mercury out of landfills.

Branch staff also participated on several national/western committees looking at harmonizing approaches to electronics product stewardship in Canada.

Table P2.3

Manitoba's Household Hazardous Waste Program

Material Collected April to March (Litres)

	Wpg 03	Wpg 04	Change	Rural 03	Rural 04	Change	2003	2004	Change
Acid solutions	2,687	2,142	-20%	777	1,183	52%	3,463	3,325	-4%
Alkaline solutions	6,896	7,903	15%	1,960	2,590	32%	8,856	10,493	18%
Aqueous salts	451	205	-55%	-	308	NA	451	513	14%
Miscellaneous - Inorganic	140,049	125,115	-11%	40,077	54,612	36%	180,126	179,727	0%
Non halogenated solvents	49,008	49,075	0%	10,708	12,536	17%	59,716	61,611	3%
Fuels	103	808	684%	410	21	-95%	513	828	61%
Resins and plastics	147,471	154,622	5%	26,809	43,905	64%	174,280	198,527	14%
Halogenated organic waste	7,776	7,256	-7%	2,183	2,839	30%	9,959	10,095	1%
Oily wastes	1,454	785	-46%	574	1,363	137%	2,028	2,148	6%
Miscellaneous - Organic	3,157	2,898	-8%	2,223	1,792	-19%	5,380	4,689	-13%
Aerosols/compressed gases	12,057	5,659	-53%	3,890	2,549	-34%	15,947	8,208	-49%
PCB ballasts	125	1,750	1300%	37	129	249%	162	1,879	1060%
Subtotal	371,178	358,217	-3%	89,645	123,824	38%	460,823	482,041	5%
Batteries, Acid filled	10,003	9,263	-7%	3,499	5,461	56%	13,502	14,724	9%
Propane Bottles	3,730	4,022	8%	168	477	184%	3,898	4,499	15%
Total quantity	**384,911**	**371,502**	**-3%**	**93,144**	**129,762**	**39%**	**478,055**	**501,264**	**5%**
							-	-	
Total Number of Vehicles	*4,033*	*4,306*	*7%*	*1,526*	*2,023*	*33%*	*5,559*	*6,329*	*14%*

In December 2002, the proposed *Hazardous or Prescribed Household Waste Stewardship Regulation* was put on hold. The Branch has pursued educational strategies for improving the management of hazardous waste. The branch participated in a CCME led stakeholders group on the management of mercury switches. Staff also met with local stakeholders in the automotive repair/recycling sector to examine opportunities for improved management of spent mercury based switches. Staff continued efforts to improve the management of mercury based lighting.

The Branch continued to work towards improved management of electronic wastes. The results of the 2002 electronics stewardship pilot project were compiled and released during Waste Reduction Week in October.

The Electronic Product Stewardship Organization of Manitoba (EPSOM) collected and processed 93.5 tonnes of consumer electronic waste. Computer-related items represented 38% of the waste collected at the six depots, which were set up at locations in Winnipeg and Stonewall. The remaining 62% were comprised of TV's and other consumer e-waste, such as VCRs, stereos, and small appliances.

Disposal of electronic equipment is a concern because it contains heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury. EPSOM calculated that the TV picture tubes and computer monitors alone contained 1,439 kilograms of lead. Lead is a heavy metal that can cause permanent health problems in adults and learning and behaviour complications in young children. This project kept 5,861 kilograms of lead, eight kilograms of cadmium and two kilograms of mercury out of landfills.

Branch staff also participated on several national/western committees looking at harmonizing approaches to electronics product stewardship in Canada.

Pollution Prevention

The Branch works with various partners, promotes initiatives to prevent pollution and supports these initiatives through grant funding.

Business/Industry Program

A final report on the Power Smart Eco-Efficiency Pilot Project was released. The project, led by Manitoba Hydro, with participation from provincial and federal agencies, was designed to support companies in reducing use of energy and water, and generation of solid waste and toxic materials. Under the two-year project, 33 companies were contacted to determine their interest in identifying and implementing changes in their operations. Of these, 14 agreed to an initial walk through, and five contracted a consultant to undertake a full audit. Follow-up with businesses to begin implementing recommendations from their audits will begin in 2004/05.

Branch staff represented Manitoba on the CCME Pollution Prevention Network and promoted and supported the Pollution Prevention Awards Program and Recognition Program. The awards program recognizes companies and organizations showing leadership in pollution prevention. Each year, a panel of industry, non-government and government representatives selects award winners from small, medium and large businesses, organizations, developers of pollution prevention innovations, and organizations using greenhouse gas reduction initiatives. The Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg received an honourable mention for its energy management and greenhouse gas reduction project at the awards ceremony in Ottawa in April 2004.

Staff engaged in voluntary partnerships with the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, Chambers of Commerce, the Manitoba Golf Superintendents Association and the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters. The Branch continues to work with, and provide information to a variety of government, academic, industry, and consumer organizations. The Branch continued to work with the Manitoba Environmental Industries Association (MEIA) and the Manitoba Quality Network (Q-NET) to support training on such topics as pollution prevention planning and workplace health and safety. The Branch is currently developing a strategy to initiate programs in the area of pesticide reduction, erosion and sediment management, and nutrient management initiatives. The Branch supported and participated in a research project initiated by the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention (C2P2), which reviewed practices in Canada, the US and Europe, to determine the characteristics of the most effective programs aimed at reducing residential pesticide use.

Staff assisted in the delivery of the Environmental Management Systems Course at Red River College and participated in a variety of Manitoba Heavy Construction Association training seminars on Environment, Health and Safety. Staff also assisted in reviewing incinerator management requirements in the province.

Staff participated in the planning of a two-year program, "Operation CleanFarm", to collect and safely dispose of obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides. The program collected 62,261 kilograms of old chemicals, surpassing the expected volume of 60,000 kilograms. All of the products were transported to Swan Hills, Alberta for high temperature incineration. Grant funding was provided from the SDIF for this project.

Ozone Depleting Substances

The Ozone Depleting Substances Act and Regulation was established to minimize and avoid the ultimate release of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) to the environment for the protection of the stratospheric ozone layer.

Branch staff participated on the Federal-Provincial Working Group on Ozone Depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives. The Working Group consulted on provincial and federal harmonization approaches for implementation of the *Strategy to Accelerate the Phase-out of CFCs and Halon Uses and to Dispose of the Surplus Stocks*, and the National *Action Plan (NAP) for the Environmental Control of Ozone Depleting Substances and Their Halocarbon Alternatives*, to meet national and international commitments under the Montreal Protocol. The 2001 NAP approved by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) calls for revising Provincial regulations.

A number of amendments are being proposed to the *Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation*, M.R. 103/94. The amendments are consistent with the 1998 and 2001 National Action Plan for the Environmental Control of ODS and their Halocarbon Alternatives and are designed to achieve an orderly and affordable phase-out of CFC's and Halons. The approach focuses on specific phase-out schedules for individual industry sectors to encourage the orderly transition from CFC's and Halons to alternative substances and technologies and to assure the safe disposal of surplus stocks. Sectoral consultations on the 1998 and 2001 NAP recommendations were undertaken with Manitoba industry stakeholders, including key associations and private businesses. Broader public consultation may be undertaken once the proposed amendments have been finalized.

The ODS White Goods research project to analyze current practices and options regarding the improvement of end of life cycle management and disposal of white goods in Manitoba was completed.

The Branch reviewed and administered the Annual Appointment Agreement between Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA). The appointment allows MOPIA to undertake certain administrative tasks under the Regulation.

MOPIA and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) initiated consultations for Manitoba to host its second "Ozone Layer Protection Study Tour" to foster ozone awareness and understanding of Manitoba's ODS management program for four delegates from developing countries.

Environmentally Sustainable Practices

The Branch promotes environmentally-sustainable practices. Co-operative approaches and partnerships with stakeholder organizations are pursued. The Branch provided a departmental coordinator for Manitoba Conservation's participation in the Commuter Challenge.

Water Efficiency

In cooperation with other governments and agencies, the Branch provided technical and financial assistance to studies to examine the performance of ultra low flush toilets and drain line carry characteristics. These are international studies with provincial, national, and international implications for water efficiency. Study results are expected by August 2004.

The Branch continued to partner with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and other provincial and federal government departments and agencies to enable an additional sixteen municipalities to use water and energy more efficiently. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has committed up to $160,000 (up to 50% of project funding) to the Manitoba Municipal Efficiency Project.

With technical and funding assistance from the SDIF, the RM of St. Andrews is nearing completion of a project that measures water use by households that draw water from wells. Participants in the project received a $150 rebate on a dual flush Caroma toilet and free showerheads. Both overall water use and type of use (toilet, shower, washing machine, etc.) was measured. The project will provide information on water use in households near Winnipeg that use wells and septic fields. When completed in July 2004, data will be used to assist homeowners with septic fields to better manage their water use.

To increase awareness and share information on water efficiency, the Branch continues involvement in outreach projects, establishes linkages with drinking-water education organizations, participates in trade shows and continues to network with other water professionals across North America.

Staff presented water utility best management practices to water and wastewater plant operators. As part of educational outreach, staff completed a Pollution Prevention brochure and an educational and activity booklet on water for children. Publication and distribution are expected in fall 2004.

The Branch supported the Canadian Water and Wastewater initiative for voluntary water efficient product labeling. Staff reviewed the *Water Conservation Potential Assessments by the Bureau of Reclamation for the Red River Valley Water Supply Study*, Draft Report dated May 14, 2003, and provided Canadian comments.

Sustainable Development Procurement and Act Implementation

The Branch continued the implementation of Manitoba Conservation's Organizational Action Plan to address the Procurement Goals established under ***The Sustainable Development Act***. The goals encompass many sustainability concerns and represent an initial step toward the challenge of focusing efforts on the most beneficial course for reducing the Government of Manitoba's ecological footprint while enhancing community development.

Staff developed a green office checklist and office challenge to encourage more sustainable practices at Manitoba Conservation offices. This resulted in a 2.7% reduction in energy usage for the six month period between September 2003 and February 2004. Several action plan targets have been met or exceeded, including increasing the amount of ethanol fuel purchased, increasing the use of recycled paper and remanufactured toner cartridges and including sustainability clauses in contracts and tenders.

The Branch continued to provide staff support to Manitoba's Sustainable Development Steering Committee and participate on working groups to implement the provisions of ***The Sustainable Development Act***, including Code of Practice, Financial Management Guidelines, Procurement Guidelines and a Guidelines Regulation for local authorities and others. The Branch continues to provide information for the section on Consumption in Manitoba's Sustainability Report.

Staff also helped refine the draft Sustainability Evaluation Tool using the experiences of the Household Hazardous Waste Management Program. The draft Tool is intended to ensure comprehensive review of proposed new initiatives.

Funding Programs

The Branch manages funding programs that support innovative solutions to environmental issues. Overall administrative support is provided to the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) and three targeted allocations under the Fund are managed by the branch. These are the SDIF Open Category, the Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund and the Environmental Youth Corps (EYC).

A total of $3.4 million was authorized to support the SDIF, comprised of the Open Category and seven other targeted broad allocations. The targeted allocations are:

- Environmental Youth Corps (EYC)
- Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund (MCCAF)
- Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation Southwest Agro-Woodlot Program
- Orphan Mine Site Rehabilitation Program
- Orphan Mine Site Assessment Program
- Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund
- Zebra Mussel Program

The MCCAF is managed by Manitoba Energy, Science and Technology, the Orphan Mines Site Rehabilitation Program is managed by Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines, and the Zebra Mussel Program is managed by the newly-established Department of Water Stewardship.

Details on approved projects funded through the SDIF are provided in a separate *Annual Report* on the Fund, tabled in the Legislature.

SDIF Open Category

The SDIF Open Category supports development, implementation and promotion of environmental innovation and sustainable development projects by local governments, industry, community and youth groups, Aboriginal organizations, and First Nation communities.

Proposals submitted for funding consideration are evaluated against the SDIF criteria by provincial staff. The evaluations are compiled and summarized and then submitted for review to an Advisory Committee, which is comprised of representatives from provincial government departments. The Advisory Committee reviews the proposals and the evaluations and makes funding recommendations to the Minister of Conservation. The

Minister of Conservation has delegated approval authority for projects receiving funding of $25,000 or less. Projects receiving funding over $25,000 are subject to Treasury Board approval.

Proposed projects under the Open category are to address one or more priority areas and achieve or demonstrate measurable progress toward achieving the Fund's objectives. They must be environmentally and ecologically sound, promote a sustainable approach, have clear environmental benefits, and take into account benefits to the community and the economy. Projects should also demonstrate involvement of youth wherever possible. Open Category Priority Program Areas are:

- Eco-tourism
- Ecosystem Conservation
- Environmental Technology Innovation and Demonstration
- Northern Community Development and Environmental Issues
- Regional Waste Management
- Sustainable Agricultural Practices
- Sustainable Community Development
- Understanding Our Environment
- Water

A total of $1.3 million was authorized to support the SDIF Open category. Staff processed 120 project proposals, of these, 60 projects expended $1.1 million in grant funding. Projects funded include ventures that focus on Aboriginal interests, youth programming, training initiatives and scientific analysis.

The Branch promoted the SDIF through participation at several conferences and meetings, in an article for the *Municipal Leader,* and through a news release at year end, announcing the 2003/04 grant recipients.

Funding allocations for approved projects by priority project areas are as follows:

Table P2.4

SDIF Open Category Funding

SDIF Fund Priority Area (FY 03/04)	**# Projects**	**Amount Expended**
Eco-tourism	6	$94,990.00
Ecosystem Conservation	4	$78,290.00
Environmental Technology Innovation and Demonstration	2	$74,950.00
Northern Community Development and Environmental Issues	5	$140,000.00
Regional Waste Management	2	$50,000.00
Sustainable Agricultural Practices	11	$212,856.48
Sustainable Community Development	4	$63,875.00
Understanding Our Environment	17	$245,640.00
Water	9	$154,260.00
Total	**60**	**$1,114,861.48**

WRAPP Fund

The WRAPP Fund was established May 30, 2000 as a four-year $2.2 million Broad Allocation under the SDIF. In January 2004 the P2 Branch completed a review of the Fund and reported on the Fund's achievements to Treasury Board.

Over the four-year period, the WRAPP Fund reviewed 150 project funding requests and approved 106 projects in total (Table P2.5). The priority areas with the most projects approved included integrated waste management (17) composting (25) regional recycling (31) and pollution prevention initiatives (12). Overall waste management related project requests represented over 60% of the projects submitted by proponents in the areas of integrated waste management, composting and regional recycling enhancement and implementation.

Table P2.5

Funding Requests and Approvals by Priority Area

Priority Area	# Projects Reviewed	$ Amount Requested	# Projects Approved	$ Amount Approved	# Projects Declined
Integrated Waste Management	30	$968,624	17	$345,950	13
Pollution Prevention	22	$554,057	12	$153,800	10
Composting	31	$732,305	25	$468,885	6
Market Development	4	$129,394	3	$39,500	1
Promotion and Education	12	$169,879	10	$113,400	2
Green Procurement	0	$0	0	$0	0
Regional Recycling	35	$856,583	31	$445,410	4
Construction & Demolition Waste Management	5	$336,541	2	$32,000	3
Institutional Waste Reduction	3	$129,800	2	$75,000	1
Manitoba Parks	5	$84,192	4	$58,900	1
Other	3	$146,500	0	$0	3
Totals	**150**	**$4,107,875**	**106**	**$1,732,845**	**44**

Since its establishment, the WRAPP Fund has been an integral program for supporting waste reduction and pollution prevention activities in the Province of Manitoba. Communities and businesses continue to seek alternative ways to cost effectively deal with waste products and materials.

Demand for project funding in key strategic areas remains strong. The WRAPP Fund has expended $1.7 million (99%) of its four year grant budget allocation of $1.8 million. The WRAPP Development Budget has allowed Manitoba Conservation to continue development of key program areas, including Ozone Depleting Substances, Extended Producer Responsibility, Household Hazardous Waste, Industry Eco-Efficiency, Pollution Prevention and Greening Government activities.

In April 2004, the Fund was approved for an additional year at $550,000. A total of $522,766 was expended on waste reduction and pollution prevention related projects and program development. Staff processed 37 project proposals requesting $820,000 in funding. Of these, 28 projects were approved and received $467,200 in grant funding.

Funding allocations for approved projects in 2003/04 by priority project areas are as follows:

Table P2.6

WRAPP Fund

WRAPP Fund Priority Area (FY 03/04)	# Projects	Amount
Integrated Waste Management	2	$17,050
Pollution Prevention	3	$56,500
Composting	7	$150,050
Parks Projects	1	$10,200
Promotion and Education	0	$0
Regional Recycling	14	$213,400
Construction & Demolition Waste	1	$20,000
Total	**28**	**$467,200**

An additional $55,566.43 was allocated to support WRAPP Program Development in the following areas:

- Plastics Stewardship Workshop (University of Manitoba – Natural Resources Institute)
- Waste Reduction Week (Resource Conservation Manitoba)
- Pesticide Reduction (Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention)
- Energy Conservation in Public Buildings
- ODS Program Implementation and Communications
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Contract Support
- Master Composter Program
- Part-time and Summer STEP position
- MPSC Business Plan consultation process
- Project monitoring and administration

Environmental Youth Corps

The Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) has provided Manitoba's young people with an opportunity to prepare for the environmental challenges of tomorrow by helping them gain valuable education and experience today. Youth are encouraged to volunteer within their community in projects that help to improve, protect and rehabilitate Manitoba's environment. The program has demonstrated the government's commitment to increasing opportunities for young people to be involved in environment-related activities, and to further the commitment of environmental protection and education for youth.

Environmental projects eligible for funding to a maximum of $5,000 include water quality, waste minimization (recycling, composting, etc.), protection of flora and fauna, rehabilitation and conservation of the natural environment, wildlife conservation and habitat preservation. A total of 90 proposals were processed, of which 74 projects, involving more than 4,600 youths, were granted $187,575.

Table P2.7
EYC Summary

Total Allocation for 2003/2004	$200,000
Applications Processed	90
Applications Approved	74
Applications Deferred	6
Applications Declined	9
Applications Withdrawn	1
Number of Youth Involved	4,632
Total Amount for Grants Approved	$187,575.00
Total Amount for Grants Expended	$187,282.52
Program Operating and Administration Costs	$ 12,717.48
Total Amount Expended	$200,000.00

Table P.8
12.4(j) Pollution Prevention

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	**Actual 2003/04**	**Estimate 2003/04**		**Variance Over/(Under)**	**Expl. No.**
	$	**FTE**	**$**		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	629.7	10.00	610.7	19.0	
Total Other Expenditures	725.6		413.8	311.8	

Lands

The Branch is responsible for the management and control of provincial Crown lands that that are governed by ***The Crown Lands Act***. The branch also has responsibility for wild rice under ***The Wild Rice Act***.

Lands Branch works closely with Regional Operations and other Program branches of the department to review applications and other proposals or programs involving Crown land and wild rice. The reviews also involve other departments and agencies of the provincial, federal and municipal governments as well as First Nations and external organizations, depending on the type of application and location of the Crown land.

The Branch administers the Grants in Lieu of taxes program for the department. In addition, it also provides support services to other branches in the drafting of Orders in Council, agreements, and Cabinet submissions.

The objectives of the branch are:

- To incorporate the principles of sustainable development into its processes and activities.
- To develop policies and processes that are transparent to the public and provide fair and equal opportunities to all Manitobans in allocations of Crown land;
- To ensure the Province receives full value for the disposition of Crown land through sale or rental.
- To facilitate delivery of the Northern Flood Agreement, Treaty Land Entitlement, and other First Nations land settlements and programs.
- To maintain complete and accurate records of Crown land inventories, encumbrances and dispositions;
- To provide a high level of service to government and the public.

Crown Lands Operations

The section is responsible for ensuring due diligence is carried out in reviews and recommendations relative to applications for the use or occupation of Crown land.

Applications are received for a broad range of private, public and commercial uses. Each application must be assessed with respect to appropriate type of tenure for the proposed use or occupation and compliance with sustainable development principles, policies and legislation.

Types of tenure include permits, leases, licences of occupation, easements and fee simple title (sales). The review and approval process, terms and conditions, and time frames are different for each type of tenure. For example, a sale application usually requires a much more comprehensive process which is significantly more lengthy than that required for a permit application.

The review process for all applications includes circulation of the application throughout government as well as to municipal authorities, planning districts, conservation districts and First Nations. The recipients of the circulation are determined based on the type of application, proposed land use and location of the Crown land.

The section is responsible for the preparation of various legal documents related to an approved disposition. These include Sale, Lease, Licence of Occupation and easement agreements, Land Grants, Land Transfers, Real Property Applications, Caveats, Assignments, Collateral Assignments. Accuracy is essential due to the high consequence of error.

In 2003/2004 the section completed 129 sales, 3 easements, 80 general permits, and 69 community permits. It currently administers 2861 permits and 538 leases, 6 Licences of Occupation and 1,056 easements. The section currently administers 81 Development Licences, 184 Production Licences, and 12 Block Licences.

Operations section is also responsible for administration of wild rice licences and permits on Crown land under ***The Wild Rice Act***. A Development Licence may be issued for a three-year period for test seeding and development prior to converting to a Production Licence.

The section currently administers 81 Development Licences, 184 Production Licences and 12 Block Licences.

Aboriginal Land Programs

The unit is responsible for administration of Crown land programs and settlement agreements involving First Nations and aboriginal communities. It represents the Branch and serves a key role in the negotiation and implementation of various agreements and programs involving Crown land. The section enjoys close and co-operative working relationships with First Nations and provides information, explanations and assistance to facilitate selections of Crown land and resolution of issues associated with selections. The section represents the Branch in the consultation process with First Nations and Aboriginal communities for Crown land proposals.

Crown land related technical support and advisory services are provided to other branches and departments that are responsible for negotiation and delivery of agreements, claims and programs involving First Nations. Services include research, mapping, record keeping, technical advice and services related to the agreements and any interests, encumbrances or legislative limitations that may affect availability of selected Crown lands.

The primary responsibility of the section is the clearance and transfer of Crown land to Canada for entitlement First Nations under the *Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement*. A custom-designed computer GIS system known as TRELES was developed to manage the program. The system tracks and maps selections and acreages, records circulation responses, tracks and reports on issues associated with selections and resolutions to the issues, and generates status reports on demand. The section works closely with Aboriginal and Northern Affairs who has the lead responsibility in delivery of the program.

To date the Section has reviewed in excess of one million acres of Crown land selections. To ensure consistency with the various settlement agreements, provincial departments and agencies have reviewed the sites. The section has formulated a Provincial Position on each site and held discussions with Canada and the First Nations to resolve the conditions under which the lands would be available for transfer.

The section participates in an all party committee to develop agreed forms for the transfer of lands between Canada and Manitoba and works with other branches and regions within the department to develop methods and procedures for the delivery of programs to ensure compliance with the terms of the Framework Agreement. It currently provides technical support to the Pequis First Nation Land Claim negotiations.

Other programs and agreements the sections is involved in or responsible for include The Northern Flood Agreement, land exchanges, and other land claims or treaty land entitlements.

Table LA.1
Treaty Land Entitlement Status

1997 TLE Framework Agreement First Nations	Crown Land Entitlement Acres	Crown Land Acres Selected	Acres Transferred to Canada
Barren Lands	66,420	16,961.94	
Northlands	94,084	67,549.47	
Brokenhead	4,344	4,738.05	
Buffalo Point	3,432	2,652.70	2,143.40
Fox Lake	26,391	100.02	
Gods Lake	42,600	46,507.52	453.85
Gods River	8,725	9,963.49	
Mathias Colomb	217,364	199,514.46	
Marcel Colomb	17,007		
Nisichawayasihk	79,435	105,587.88	
Norway House	104,784	107,267.95	5,920.20
Opaskwayak	47,658	47,088.57	8,699.60
Oxford House	35,434	38,602.71	
Rolling River	2,356	2,350.70	2,350.70
Sapotaweyak	108,134	111,873.53	
Wuskwi Sipihk	44,168	45,303.59	23,468.88
Sayisi Dene	22,372	0.00	
Shamattawa	24,912	19,350.05	
War Lake	7,156	7,621.51	
York Factory	29,173	10,806.13	
TOTAL	985,949	843,840	43,036.63

1994 TLE Settlement Agreement First Nations	Crown Land Entitlement Acres	Crown Land Acres Selected	Acres Transferred to Canada
Garden Hill*	45,369.00	52,000.00	39,206.00
Red Sucker Lake	9,487.00	16,650.00	9,585.37
St. Theresa Point*	34,908.00	35,250.00	35,185.80
Wasagamack*	12,493.00	13,300.00	12,511.30
TOTAL	102,257.00	117,200.00	96,488.47

*Includes additional acres necessary to accommodate future public purpose requirement

Number of Sites Approved for Survey

Buffalo Point First Nation (1)	232.02 acres±
God's Lake First Nation (3)	1,790.85 acres±
God's River First Nation (3)	4,282.81 acres±
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (7)	22,639.74 acres±
Norway House Cree Nation (1)	22,337.10 acres±
Opaskwayak Cree Nation (2)	1771.60 acres±
Sapotaweyak Cree Nation (5)	97,246.27 acres±
Oxford House First Nation (7)	14,265.98 acres±
Total:	**164,566.37 acres±**

Table LA.2

12.4(k)1 Crown Lands Operations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	744.1	18.00	823.6	(79.5)	
Total Other Expenditures	1,520.0		1,268.5	251.5	

Crown Lands Registry

This section maintains secure and accurate records of current and historic dispositions of Crown land. Records of dispositions and all related documents are maintained in the computerized Crown Land Registry System. The Records Vault holds microfiche and paper files containing copies of agreements, documents, correspondence and other information related to each specific parcel of land.

The Registry is the authoritative source of original grants of land and mineral interests from the Crown. This includes dispositions made by the Dominion Government prior to the transfer of natural resources to the province in 1930.

The section provides a number of services to a wide range of government departments, the public and private agencies. These services include:

- Providing computerized queries, reports and historical searches of Crown land records.
- Producing invoices, statements and permits for Lands Branch, Parks and Natural Areas Branch, and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.
- Providing information to the public and private sector regarding mines and minerals ownership.
- Administering the approval process for requests by municipalities for approval to sell government road allowances.
- Administering approval process for transfer of Mines and Minerals for subdivision purposes.
- Recording all transactions and maintaining records related to Crown land dispositions, reservations and Order In Council designations.
- Recording agricultural permits and leases, and quarry permits and leases on the Crown Land Registry System.
- Managing microfilming and archiving requirements for Crown land records.
- Maintaining records of Crown lands reserved for purposes of fulfilling obligations under the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement, Northern Flood Agreement, and other First Nations land claims.
- Providing online access to the Registry to other branches and departments of government.
- Maintaining the branch web site.
- Providing a wide range of management and work flow reports.
- Providing GIS services for the Treaty Land Entitlement program and for other sections.

The integration of geographic information technologies into the Crown Land Registry System (CLRS) is in progress. This involves development of a module to be added to the Registry application that will provide seamless real time updates between CLRS and GIS.

Table LA.3
12.4(k)2 Crown Lands Registry

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employees Benefits	199.3	6.00	244.4	(45.1)	
Total Other Expenditures	150.0		156.0	(6.0)	

Remote Sensing

The Remote Sensing section provides earth observation services and related geo-spatial information from a range of air-craft and space-craft platforms to derive insight, evaluation, and assessment of the natural and physical resources of Manitoba. This information helps to support natural resource management and environmental monitoring activities within the Conservation Department and other Government of Manitoba agencies.

The Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre (MRSC) processed NOAA/AVHRR satellite data for Canadian World Crop Monitoring Program, Canadian Global Change Program, and Parks Canada, covering all of Canada, using GEOCOMP satellite image processing. Cloud-free image composites were created every 10 days between April 11and end of October, 2003.

The MRSC was contracted to update the 1994 Land Use/Land Cover of Agro-Manitoba to 2000/2001 using LANDSAT satellite imagery. The clients included: Manitoba Conservation, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), Ducks Unlimited, Parks Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Manitoba Conservation Districts, Red River Flood Protection Program. This project was completed in November 2003.

The MRSC in conjunction with Manitoba Conservation-Forestry Branch and in cooperation with the Canadian Forest Service-Earth Observation for Sustainable Development (EOSD) of Forests project, commenced the forest land cover data for Manitoba using satellite data to meet core forest information needs of the Kyoto Protocol, the international Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is a three year project. Work has commenced on the Boreal Plains ecozone. The east-side of Lake Winnipeg north to Island Lake and God's Lake and the Interlake region has been completed.

A forest resource evaluation for the Forestry Branch was commenced in 2003/04. Landsat satellite imagery was used for change detection in the forest resource inventory information within Forest Management Units 10 and west half of 11 in FML # 3 - Louisiana Pacific. The east-half of FMU 10 was completed in 2003/04.

Topographic Mapping

Digital topographic mapping compilation at 1:5000 was generated for the Cross Lake First Nation related to Article 3, of the Northern Flood Agreement. Completed compilation of digital topographic data of the Cross Lake region for the Lands Branch under the Northern Flood Agreement. Topologically structured all data for the Cross Lake region and generated 350 hard copy maps at 1:2000 scale.

Completed for the Forestry Branch: Digital Elevation Models and contours from orthophoto and base features data for Forest Management Units 10,11,12,13,14,23, 30, 31, and 35, to define a net operable land base in which to conduct the wood supply analysis. FMU 20 will be completed in April 2004.

Completed 20% of Interlake 1:60,000 topographic mapping.

Three new drain designation maps, 51, 61, and 83 were completed (for a total of 75 to date) for the Water Stewardship geographic information system. Through enhancement of the digital topographic data, drains are designated by their degree of contribution to the overall stream flow, as well as the installation of culverts to assure continuous flow of water within the digital elevation model being developed for Water Stewardship.

Negotiations with Natural Resources Canada for the integration of the 1:50,000 National Topographic Series mapping program with the Provincial product to expedite the process of base mapping in northern Manitoba commenced. The Branch provided updating of geo-spatial vector data for 34, 1;50,000 National Topographic Mapping Program jointly for the Provincial and Federal Governments. Seven new fully structured data sets were added to the MLI.

Completed 30 R.M. boundary computations and topographical data structuring for corresponding boundaries for GIS user community and the MLI.

Geographical Names

Continued to participate with federal and provincial counter parts in the development of a national prototype for Canadian Geographical Names Service (CGNS).

Marketed and distributed the publication, "A Place of Honour - Manitoba's War Dead Commemorated in its Geography".

Continued to officially record all new local drain names in southern Manitoba. This project upgrades Manitoba's digital maps and a new database that encompasses all drain information including geographic coordinates and includes unique key for cross-reference purposes to the Manitoba Geographical Names Database. The project is ongoing as Manitoba's digital maps are updated. Field research will be required in the future to confirm local names for currently unnamed drains.

Continued the activities related to the commemorative names project such as providing commemorative name certificates to families.

The Manitoba Geographical Names Data Base (MGNDB) containing all current and archival name records continued to be enhanced with official decisions, status and origin data.

Pope John Paul II Hill, located within Birds Hill Provincial Park, was officially named in honor of His Holiness on October 8, 2003, to permanently acknowledge the cultural significance of the site. The naming proposal was initiated by members of the John Paul II Foundation to coincide with the Silver Jubilee of the Pontificate of John Paul II.

Liaison with the Geographical Names Board of Canada was maintained regarding name decisions, revisions of principles and procedures, and to ensure provincial interests and concerns are identified, evaluated, and considered in provincial, federal, and international decision-making processes.

Continued the service related to the dissemination of geographical name information to all Manitobans regarding the correct spelling, usage, origin of names, and, in particular, to government departments and agencies for support of a vital toponymic quality control service for government maps, signs, and other documentation.

Table LA.4
12.4(k)3 Remote Sensing

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employees Benefits	553.1	11.00	560.4	(7.3)	
Total Other Expenditures	240.9		237.2	3.7	
Total Recoveries	(0.0)		(23.7)	23.7	

Land Mapping Services

The primary function of this section is to develop and maintain province wide digital (cadastral) property parcel data. The developed digital land parcel data forms a fundamental component of a province-wide, multi-purpose information system. Its purpose is to provide provincial land data users with a means of spatially referencing their own land data records such as infrastructure, assessment, ownership, land use, etc., to a common, geo-referenced, land parcel base that is timely, precise and homogeneous.

Development of digital land parcel data in both urban and rural areas continued to expand to meet increasing demand by data users. More than 13,300 land parcels were added to the province's MLI Data Warehouse including parcel data sets for the communities of Hartney, Warren, Landmark, East Selkirk and Oak Island Settlement as part of parcel mapping service provided to Community Planning Branch of Intergovernmental Affairs and Forestry Branch's Dutch Elm Disease program. Parcel mapping of 15 townships was completed. This provided full coverage of 3 rural municipalities - The R.M.s of Elton, Cornwallis and Rosser. The township mapping also provided Crown Lands and the Dept. of Intergovernmental Affairs and major clients such as Manitoba Hydro and MTS Mapping with densified parcel mapping within the Capital Region. The mapping of one entire Parish - the Parish of Baie St. Paul provided a significant contribution of parcel mapping of the Assiniboine River corridor between Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie to meet Water Resources Branch GIS parcel mapping needs with respect to dyking and water control parcels throughout the corridor. Over 60 separate digital mapping datasets were updated under the section's annual maintenance program to ensure timeliness of the parcel data to end-users.

In response to departmental GIS needs all of the section's digital parcel base has been converted to ESRI shape file and AutoCAD data formats and placed in the government's Data MLI Warehouse for access by all government departments and the general public. The section also provided GIS expertise and application development support for several MLI geo spatial products including digital provincial drainage system maps, Capitol Region topographic building and water layers data topology creation and polygonization, 3D terrain modelling in the Duck Mountains and provincial boundary mapping.

Upgraded the existing quarter-section grid for southern Manitoba, including integration of existing geomatics/remote sensing branch cadastral products where feasible.

Table LA.5

12.4(k)4 Land Mapping Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	566.8	9.00	528.5	38.3	
Total Other Expenditures	73.0		72.8	.2	

Habitat Enhancement Fund

The Fund provided a grant to Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Critical Wildlife Habitat Program component, to support stewardship initiatives, resource inventories, land management (including native prairie management), and extension initiatives.

Table HE.1

12-4(m) Habitat Enhancement Fund

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Other Expenditures	50.0		50.0	0.0	

Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund

The Fund promotes principles of sustainable development through grants to non-profit community based organizations to undertake projects that will enhance the natural resources of the province. The Fund encourages organizations to develop local projects that foster better understanding of natural resource issues and the environment. Funding is granted according to dollars in the Fund and the number of proponents. In 2003, the Department supported 15 projects.

Table SC.1
12.4(h) Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Grant Assistance	179.7		432.1	(252.4)	

Environmental Stewardship

Divisional Administration

Divisional administration provides direction for and facilitates development of legislation, policies, plans and programs to sustainably manage resources and the environment.

Divisional responsibilities include:

- Coordinating and integrating natural resource policy, legislation, environmental impact assessments, co-management agreements, land-use planning and resource allocation.
- Promoting and facilitating effective involvement of aboriginal people in management of natural resources and the environment.
- Managing the environmental approvals process to ensure sustainability of developments.
- Undertaking reviews to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programming.
- Providing financial support to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment and the Manitoba Eco-Network.
- Ensuring that effective relations are maintained with other governments.
- Negotiating resource co-management agreements.

Environmental Stewardship Division comprises:

- Sustainable Resource Management Branch
- Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch
- Aboriginal Relations Branch

Table ES.1

12.5(a) Divisional Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	152.8	2.00	159.0	(6.2)	
Other Expenditures	54.3		202.7	(148.4)	
Northern Initiatives	35.4		400.0	(364.6)	
Grant Assistance	122.7		122.5	0.2	
Total Other Expenditures	212.4		725.2	(512.8)	

Sustainable Resource Management

The Branch co-ordinates and integrates departmental policy, natural resource allocation and Crown land use planning, environmental impact assessment, legislative interpretation, and co-management, in accordance with principles and guidelines of sustainable development. The Branch is responsible for the administration of ***The Sustainable Development Act.*** The Branch provides planning and policy assistance to local planning authorities, administers licensing of resource-based tourism facilities, represents the department in issues related to internal and international trade agreements, provides support on communications issues, co-ordinates preparation of ministerial correspondence and co-ordinates departmental settlements and litigation arising out of hydro-electric and water-control projects and Treaty Land Entitlement.

The Branch provides strategic planning, analytic, economic and evaluative services to assist management to improve the effectiveness of departmental programming, Crown land-use planning and resource allocation. This includes:

- leading and participating in the preparation of a discussion paper designed to address the need for integrated and consolidated water legislation; and participating on the legislative drafting team established by Manitoba Water Stewardship for the development of ***The Water Protection Act***.
- managing the department's assessment of development proposals under ***The Environment Act*** and the ***Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act*** and submitted by other agencies and businesses and pre-screening proposals from Manitoba Transportation and Government Services;
- integrating conservation policies and programs with other departments, including inter-departmental and inter-governmental committee participation;
- assisting in the planning of land and resources by municipalities and planning districts;
- assisting review of *Annual Operating Plans* of forest management licensees, and forest renewal strategies;
- reviewing applications for funding under Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, the Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund, and Fisheries Enhancement Initiative Fund;
- co-ordinating licensing of resource-based tourism facilities and services, such as hunting and fishing lodges, outfitters, and ecotourism; and
- Leading an interdepartmental committee to establish a government position on Métis harvesting as a result of a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision, this includes partition in Federal/Provincial discussions.

Integrated Directors Group Review Process

The Branch is secretariat to the Integrated Directors Group, which establishes procedures for integrating management of natural resources and the environment, consistent with the principles of sustainable development. The Branch, through the IDG process, co-ordinates the review and development of departmental positions on resource management issues such as Environment Act proposals, municipal development plan amendments, Crown oil and natural gas lease sales, highways proposals, applications for the Special Conservation Fund, and applications to the Licensing Advisory Committee.

Legislation and Inter-governmental Affairs

The Branch ensures conservation legislation and regulations are appropriate and up-to-date and that beneficial working relationships are established and maintained with other Canadian jurisdictions.

The Branch provides co-ordination for headquarters operations, regions, other branches, departments, and agencies on new and amending legislation, both provincial and federal, and on litigation. An advisory service on interpretation and application is provided to the department and the public.

Legislation and regulations are developed, reviewed and amended, the department is represented on Federal/Provincial committees and task forces, and agreements are negotiated to ensure consistent and effective environmental management.

The Branch liaises with legal counsel in Manitoba Justice and provides internal consulting service on legislative, public consultation, intergovernmental and other issues.

Legislation

Until November 2003 Manitoba Conservation had administrative responsibility for 43 statutes and 105 regulations. Since the establishment of Manitoba Water Stewardship and the transfer of legislative responsibility for water and fisheries to that department, Manitoba Conservation retains administrative responsibility for 27 statutes and 90 regulations.

In addition, Manitoba Conservation's officers have inspection and enforcement responsibilities under ***The Non-Smokers Health Protection Act***, as well as 10 regulations under ***The Public Health Act*** and eight City of Winnipeg health by-laws.

The following legislative and regulatory activity within Manitoba Conservation's administrative mandate occurred during the reporting period:

- ***The Resource Tourism Operators Act*** took effect March 1, 2004, repealing and replacing provisions under ***The Tourism and Recreation Act***. The new Act was introduced to effectively manage resource tourism opportunities and control illegal operators and substandard facilities. It governs the provision of outfitting services in Manitoba, requiring all outfitters in the province to be licensed and to obtain permits to operate outfitting facilities.

- Five new regulations were registered during the reporting period:

    - The *Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation* introduced a mandatory certification program for water and wastewater facility operators. Although this regulation took effect in 2003, some of its provisions will be phased in gradually over an orderly, multi-year implementation period.

    - The *Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation*, which repeals and replaces the *Private Sewage Disposal Systems and Privies Regulation* and the *Sensitive Areas Regulation*, will improve sewage management in the province. Although most of the Regulation took effect in April 2003, registration and certification requirements were deferred until 2004 and 2005, respectively.

    - The *Special Waste (Shredder Residue) Regulation* provides a new disposal method for low-risk shredded residue of appliances, motor vehicles and other sources of recyclable steel with verifiably low concentrations of contaminants.

    - The *Sustainability Guidelines for Local Governments, School Divisions, Universities, Colleges and Regional Health Authorities Regulation* was passed after consultations with representatives of affected stakeholder organizations in the province's municipal, university, school and hospital sectors.

    - The *Resource Tourism Operators Regulation* took effect on the same date ***The Resource Tourism Operators Act*** was proclaimed. The new Regulation contains details of the licensing and permitting structure established by the Act.

- Twenty-eight amending regulations were registered during the reporting period, amending twenty existing regulations including:

    - amendments to the *Land Administration Fees Regulation* and the *Provincial Snowmobile Trail Regulation* under ***The Crown Lands Act***

    - an amendment to the *Classification Criteria for Products, Substances and Organisms Regulation* under ***The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act***

    - amendments to the *Environment Act Fees Regulation*, the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation* and the *Pesticides Regulation* under ***The Environment Act***

  - three amendments to the *Designation of Provincial Forests Regulation* under ***The Forest Act***

  - an amendment to the *Park Activities Regulation*, three amendments to the *Park Reserves Designation Regulation* and two amendments to the *Provincial Parks Designation Regulation* under ***The Provincial Parks Act***

  - two amendments to the *Designation of Wildlife Lands Regulation*, an amendment to the *Exotic Wildlife Regulation*, two amendments to the *General Hunting Regulation*, amendments to the *Hunting Areas and Zones Regulation* and the *Hunting Dogs Regulation*, two amendments to the *Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits Regulation* and amendments to the *Managed Hunting Areas Regulation*, the *Trapping of Wild Animals Regulation*, the *Vehicle Use in Hunting Regulation* and the *Wildlife Protection Regulation* under ***The Wildlife Act***.

- More detail regarding the contents of the thirty-three regulatory initiatives identified above may be found in those sections of this report that provide program-specific descriptions of activities undertaken during the reporting period.

Branch staff additionally provided assistance to Manitoba Water Stewardship respecting ***The Water Protection Act*** (Bill 22), ***The Red River Floodway Act*** (Bill 23), ***The Floodway Authority Act*** (Bill 31) and ***The Fisheries Amendment Act*** (Bill 38). These four Bills were introduced in the Manitoba Legislature in March 2004.

Intergovernmental Affairs

The following activities occurred during the reporting period:
- supported the Minister and Deputy Minister in their official activities representing Manitoba in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment forum (CCME);
- worked co-operatively with the CCME Secretariat and other Canadian jurisdictions to co- ordinate and advance environmental management issues across Canada;
- monitored trade and environment issues, including the Canada/United States softwood lumber trade dispute;
- supported the Minister as member of the Governmental Committee for Canada's representation on the North American Commission for Environmental Co-operation;
- supported Manitoba's activities with relation to the federal Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) 1999, and helped coordinate Manitoba government discussions/activities with the Federal government including the Five-Year Parliamentary Review of the legislation.
- participated as Manitoba's representative on the following intergovernmental committees:
  - North American Agreement on Environmental Co-operation (Canada Implementation Working Committee and Canada Implementation Senior Officials Committee),
  - Canada-Costa Rica Agreement on Environmental Cooperation,
  - Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Committees, including supporting Manitoba's role as Chair of the national Contaminated Site Liability Scoping Group, and the follow-up committee, the Contaminated Site and Brownfield Task Group which is still underway.
  - CCME Environmental Protection and Planning Committee.
- supported the government's climate change and water stewardship activities and liaised with staff overseeing these activities;
- Continued participation in the sustainability indicators project under Canada/South Africa Twinning Program.

The Branch represented the department in trade matters related to the *Agreement on Internal Trade*, *NAFTA* and *GATT/WTO* agreements. Activities included representing the department in development and implementation of the *Processing of Natural Resources* chapter of the ***Agreement on Internal Trade***, co-ordinating activities associated with implementation of *NAFTA*, monitoring trade developments in resource issues, and conducting liaison with other departments and jurisdictions on trade matters involving resources.

Co-Management Initiatives

The Branch develops policy, procedures and guidelines for co-management of natural resources with First Nations, communities and organizations and leads departmental participation in various settlement agreements. Activities undertaken included:

- co-ordinated consultation with First Nations and northern communities on resource allocations for lodges and outfitters;
- oversaw *Northern Flood Agreement* resource management agreement;
- lead co-management discussions on new departmental initiatives (Opaskwayak Cree Nation, the West Region Tribal Council and the Manitoba Métis Federation); and
- acted as a liaison with other provinces, territories and the federal government.
- Leading an interdepartmental committee to establish a government position on Métis harvesting as a result of a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision. This includes participation in Federal/Provincial discussions.

Treaty Land Entitlement

The Branch formulates the department's position on Treaty Land Entitlement issues. Policies are developed concerning the availability of Crown land to meet Treaty Land Entitlement obligations. The Branch also leads Departmental involvement in new Treaty Land Entitlement agreements.

Hydro-Electric and Water-Control Project Settlements

The Branch leads departmental input into settlements arising out of the *Northern Flood Agreement*, the *Grand Rapids Forebay Project*, Fairford River control structure and other claims by First Nations and communities resulting from hydro-electric or water-control projects. Negotiations with Cross Lake First Nation regarding the *Northern Flood Agreement* are continuing as are settlement efforts with Fox Lake Cree Nation and the communities of Cross Lake and Norway House.

Transboundary Water Projects

The Transboundary Waters Office represents Manitoba interests relating to waters crossing the International Boundary. The Office has established a working relationship with Canadian, American and international agencies and officials. It represents Manitoba on the United States-Canada Consultative Group on Garrison, co-ordinates interdepartmental input and analysis of proposals related to the Garrison Diversion Unit and Devils Lake, liaises with the International Joint Commission, monitors activities of IJC Boards and co-ordinates Manitoba responses. The Office works closely with Foreign Affairs and Environment Canada in developing and presenting Canadian positions to United States.

The Transboundary Waters Office was transferred to Manitoba Water Stewardship when the new department was created in the fall of 2003.

Licensing Advisory Committee

The Branch provides secretariat and Chair for the Licensing Advisory Committee (LAC). The Committee, comprising Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Manitoba Water Stewardship, makes recommendations to the Administrator of Resource Tourism on the licensing of outfitters and their services, and the permitting of their associated facilities, for the purposes of hunting, fishing and ecotourism activities. About 1,350 licences and permits were issued last year.

The Branch serves as secretariat to the Resource Tourism Appeals Committee, which provides an appeal mechanism for operators wishing to appeal a decision of the Administrator of Resource Tourism.

Sustainable Development Implementation

The Branch administers ***The Sustainable Development Act***, co-ordinates implementation of the Act within the department and supports and assists in the implementation of Act interdepartmentally, by Crown corporations, universities, colleges, school divisions, regional health authorities and local government.

The Branch:

- is a member of and provided secretariat support to the interdepartmental Steering Committee established to oversee implementation of the Act;
- is the co-chair or member of five interdepartmental working groups established to:
  - recommend ways and means for implementing the sustainable development code of practice,
  - refine the sustainability indicators and prepare the Provincial Sustainability Report;
  - prepare the procurement and financial management guidelines regulation;
  - recommend strategies and actions to provide the needed staff education, training and information respecting the implementation of the various components to the Act;
  - prepare a sustainable development communication/education strategy;
- is a member of the departmental procurement implementation committee established to prepare and oversee implementation of Manitoba Conservation's sustainable development procurement action plan;
- provided information and made presentations to a number of departments, agencies and organizations on the requirements of the Act and process for and progress made at implementation.

During the reporting period:

- all working groups continued implementation of their work plans to address assigned tasks;
- development of a draft "Sustainability Evaluation Tool" was initiated to facilitate implementation of Code of Practice and Financial Management Guidelines;
- the *Sustainability Guidelines for Local Governments, School Divisions, Universities, Colleges and Regional Health Authorities Regulation* was passed in January, 2004.
- work continued on the development of the Provincial Sustainability Report; and
- development of a draft Sustainable Development Communication/Education Strategy was initiated.

Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

The Branch provided administrative and research services and support to the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development which is formally established under ***The Sustainable Development Act***. The Manitoba Round Table is comprised of 25 members, including six cabinet ministers, with Minister of Conservation as Chairperson.

Round Table priority areas and activities included:

- Manitoba Youth Round Table; and
- Sustainable Development Scholarship Program

The Branch prepared the *Manitoba Round Table Annual Report* and coordinated the Round Table's activities.

Land Use Planning

The Branch coordinates three principal land use planning initiatives - broad area planning, Crown land planning and departmental input into local municipal planning. Additionally, the Branch is the departmental lead in the regular review of the province's land use policies.

East Side Lake Winnipeg Broad Area Planning Initiative

The Consultation on Sustainable Development Implementation (COSDI) Report (1999) recommended that the implementation of sustainable development include the creation of broad area plans across the province. Broad area planning is defined as integrated and co-ordinated planning that is based on the sustainability of the ecosystem. Broad area plans are intended to ensure that future land, resource and development decisions address environmental, social, health, cultural and economic needs of the public, local communities, First Nations and various stakeholders and interest groups.

The Branch co-ordinates the East Side Planning Initiative and provides secretariat support to the East Side Round Table, commissioned by the Minister to develop a work plan, conduct public meetings and bring forward recommendations toward a sustainable land use plan for the study area. The Branch also provides secretariat support to the Round Table's two principal advisory bodies, the East Side First Nation Council and the East Side Advisory Committee.

Crown land planning

The Branch provides planning and secretariat support to the Crown Land Classification Committee (CLCC). The Branch, in conjunction with regional Bloc Planning Committees, maintains and administers a system of operational coding on Crown land, and prepares *Crown Land Plans*. The Branch also administers the Committee's system for the review and determination on disposition (sale, exchange, designation by Order-in-Council) of Crown lands, and formulates and maintains the committee's policy and procedure manual.

During the fiscal year the CLCC undertook and completed a review and updating of its *Policy and Procedures Manual*. The Committee also:

- approved a policy/protocol respecting the need for hay and grazing during times of emergency on Crown lands not generally classified for agricultural use;
- initiated development of a consultation policy/procedure respecting Crown land sales and First Nations; and
- initiated development and consolidation of policies and procedures respecting timber harvesting on Crown land classified for agriculture and other land uses.

The Committee completed its annual updating of the report *Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans* for 2003, which was printed and distributed. Over 300 land classification changes were made to the Crown land plans. The report contains the Crown land plans for all municipalities and unorganized areas within the jurisdiction of the CLCC. These plans are used in the day-to-day administration of Crown land and support various government initiatives and departmental programs.

As part of its Crown land classification system, the Committee approved the addition of an "H" code to recognize candidate Crown lands being considered for possible inclusion within the Provincial Protected Areas Initiative.

The Committee circulated to the members of the Interdepartmental Planning Board, local councils, conservation districts and Bloc Planning Committees a number of proposed Crown land designations. As a result, the CLCC reviewed and approved the following proposed order-in-council Crown land designations:

- expansion of the Old Pinawa Dam Provincial Park,
- inclusion of section 11-19-18W in the Onanole Wildlife Management Area,
- establishment of the Little George Island Ecological Reserve,
- expansion of the Rivers Provincial Park, and
- establishment of the Bell and Steeprock Canyons protected area within the Porcupine Provincial Forest.

The Committee reviewed 28 Agricultural Crown land sale appeals and agreed to approve seven for sale. The CLCC recommended 21 appeals be sent to sale program appeal body as concerns raised about the sales were consistent with the reasons established by cabinet for rejecting Crown land sales.

The Committee also reviewed 55 Agricultural Crown land sale applications for which objections had been raised during the initial review by various departments and local governments. The CLCC agreed to approve the sale of 11 applications and disapproved the sale of 44.

The CLCC also reviewed, at the request of Manitoba Conservation Lands Branch, the sale application of two non-agricultural Crown land sales. Upon review, the Committee recommended both applications be disapproved.

The Committee also approved a policy against sale of surplus Crown lands along the Red River Floodway and Portage Diversion and as a result of this policy returned to the Lands Branch two sale applications which occurred in these areas noting they were not available for sale.

Municipal land planning

The Branch assists municipalities and Planning Districts in the preparation of development plans and zoning by-laws by co-ordinating preparation of departmental advice and information on planning, management and use of natural resources (wildlife, fish, surface and ground water, forests, outdoor recreation, ecological significant areas, parks, natural areas and Crown lands) and responding to requests for studies, maps, and statistical compilations required to properly allocate resources.

The Branch co-ordinates development of departmental positions and advice on all proposed new and amended *Development Plans* and *Zoning By-laws* and other municipal issues such as road closures and land annexations.

As of January 2004, the Branch undertook to coordinate the departmental review of all proposed subdivisions within the Red River Region. At the same time, a database to track all municipal proposals was also initiated. For the first three months of 2004, the Branch coordinated the review of:

- 63 proposed land subdivisions in the Red River region,
- 37 proposed municipal zoning by-laws and amendments,
- 19 proposed development plans and amendments, and
- 7 other proposed municipal issues.

Provincial Land Use Policies

The Branch continued co-ordination of the review and proposed revision of those provincial land use policies for which Manitoba Conservation is the lead department. The approach is to revise the policies to reflect the recommendations of the COSDI report, integrate approved sustainable development land use related policies and integrate the principles of the provincial Sustainable Development Code of Practice and ***The Sustainable Development Act***.

Table SR.1
12.5(b) Sustainable Resource Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	963.4	17.00	1,068.6	(105.2)	
Other Expenditures	1,208.8		824.2	384.6	
Grant Assistance	10.2		10.2	0.0	
Total Other Expenditures	1,219.0		834.4	384.6	

Environmental Assessment and Licensing

To ensure that development maintains sustainable environmental quality, the Branch:

- Administers development assessment and approval requirements of ***The Environment Act***, ***The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act***, ***The Public Health Act*** and ***The Pesticides Regulation***,
- Controls municipal, industrial, and hazardous waste sources of pollutants,
- Minimizes environmental impact of development proposals, and
- Minimizes adverse effects to the environment and public health from pesticide use.

To ensure that water and wastewater facilities are operated by competent and trained operators, the Branch:

- Administers the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation.

Municipal, Industrial, and Hazardous Waste Approvals

To control municipal, industrial and hazardous waste sources of pollutants, the Section:

- Co-ordinates environmental assessment and licensing of proposed Developments,
- Recommends conditions to the Director and Minister for Development Licences,
- Advises on technical aspects of pollutant treatment, control strategies, and hazardous waste,
- Reviews mine site rehabilitation schemes,
- Provides technical assistance to municipal, provincial, and federal governments on wastewater collection, treatment and disposal, air emission control, and management of hazardous wastes,
- Provides technical support to other departments,
- Conducts inspection and enforcement activity for developments in planning, construction, and operating stages,
- Responds to complaints and inquiries, and
- Represents the Department at public meetings or hearings.

To administer the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation, the Section:

- Is developing three sub-programs,
- Operates the certification examination sub-program,
- Works with other stakeholders to develop educational courses for operators.

Environmental Land Use Approvals

To ensure that potential environmental impacts are identified and addressed in projects which affect land and water use, the Section:

- Co-ordinates environmental assessment and licensing of proposed developments in recreation, transportation, transmission, pipelines, hydro-electric generation, forest management, and water development and control,
- Co-ordinates environmental review of proposed Treaty Land Entitlements,
- Co-ordinates environmental review of Canada/Manitoba Infrastructure Works projects,
- Assists developing and revising legislation, policies and procedures,
- Participates in and provides technical advice for projects and program planning, including screening of Manitoba Transportation and Government Services projects,
- Participates on interdepartmental committees and task forces, and review and approval by letter, of projects with environmental impacts not included in *Classes of Development Regulation*,
- Participates on Tembec, Tolko Manitoba and Louisiana-Pacific forest management stakeholder advisory committees,
- Provides management services for such other initiatives as Manitoba Model Forest and Manitoba Forestry Association,
- Conducts inspection and enforcement for developments in planning, construction, and operating stages,
- Responds to complaints and inquiries, and
- Represents the Department at hearings and public meetings.

Pesticide Approvals Section

To minimize adverse effects to health and the environment from pesticides and fertilizers, the Section:

- Provides professional expertise to the Department, government, public, and industry on pesticide/fertilizer use, storage, disposal, and control,
- Manages a *Pesticide Permit* system to address public concerns/objections,
- Recommends conditions to the Director and Minister for ***Environment Act*** *Licences*,
- Assists in periodic revision of *National Standard for Pesticide Education, Training, and Certification in Canada* for pesticide applicators and vendors,
- Provides technical expertise and advice to the Association for a Clean Rural Environment on container disposal and other environmental concerns,
- Supplies expertise to the Federal, Provincial, Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides through annual national meetings and telephone conferences,
- Serves on the Board of Directors and provides information to the Prairie Provinces Certified Crop Advisor program,
- Serves on the Board of Directors and provides advice to the Industrial Vegetation Management Association,
- Conducts inspection and enforcement activity for developments in planning, construction, and operating stages, and
- Responds to complaints and inquiries respecting pesticide/fertilizer use.

Table EA.1

Environmental Assessment and Licensing Activities

(ELUA - Environmental Land Use Approvals; PA - Pesticide Approvals; MIHWA - Municipal, Industrial, and Hazardous Waste Approvals)

Activities	ELUA (#)		PA (#)		MIHWA (#)		Total	
	03-04	02-03	03-04	02-03	03-04	02-03	03-04	02-03
The Environment Act								
Project proposals received	11	21	10	13	20	27	**41**	61
Project proposals processed	11	17	10	13	19	31	**40**	61
Project proposals refused	0	0	0	0	0	1	**0**	1
Minor alterations requests received	7	14	5	6	20	25	**32**	45
Minor alterations requests processed	7	12	5	6	20	25	**32**	43
Revision requests to licences approved	2	4	2	10	0	7	**4**	21
Pre-Licensing activities processed	30	34	0	0	12	13	**42**	47
Highways pre-planning reviews	8	14					**8**	14
Infrastructure project reviews-Can/Man	33	23			0	0	**33**	23
Hydro Low Voltage reviews	3	5					**3**	5
Other Reviews. Licence not required	39	36	0	0	2	12	**41**	48
Site inspections, monitoring and enforcement	99	105	91	97	38	91	**228**	293
Pesticide Use Permits issued			224	236			**224**	236
Post Seasonal Reports received/compiled			207	221			**207**	221
Public complaints investigated	27	16	13	17	8	10	**48**	43
Public meetings attended	34	36	3	5	13	18	**50**	59
Public Hearings attended	1	1	0	0	4	1	**5**	2
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act								
Project proposals received					3	4	**3**	4
Project proposals processed					3	4	**3**	4
Minor alterations requests received					2	8	**2**	8
Minor alterations requests processed					2	8	**2**	8
Pre-Licensing activities					5	3	**5**	3
Site inspections, monitoring and enforcement					5	8	**5**	8

Activities	**ELUA (#)**		**PA (#)**		**MIHWA (#)**		**Total**	
	03-04	**02-03**	**03-04**	**02-03**	**03-04**	**02-03**	**03-04**	**02-03**
Public meetings attended					0	0	**0**	0
The Public Health Act								
Fumigation Permits issued			2	3			**2**	3
Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Regulation								
Certification Examination					530	N/A	**530**	N/A
Plant Classifications issued					0	N/A	**0**	N/A
Certificates issued					0	N/A	**0**	N/A

Significant Activities

- The sub-program for operator certification examinations is operational. Two additional sub-programs remain to be implemented to fully operationalize the *Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation*. An amending regulation is under development to address necessary changes to the Regulation
- A new Licence was issued to Midwest Food Products for continued operation of the potato processing facility and to address groundwater concerns.
- The Branch made a submission at the public hearings held by the Clean Environment Commission on the Rural Municipality of Brokenhead (Garson/Tyndall Wastewater Proposal).
- The Branch has provided direction to the City of Winnipeg regarding the recommendations made by the Clean Environment Commission following public hearing on the operation of the City's sewage treatment plants and combined sewer outfalls.
- Winter road relocations: Co-ordinated the environmental assessment and licensing of winter road relocations in accordance with the *Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Co-operation*. Manitoba Transportation and Government Services filed a proposal to provide a winter road connection from Gods Lake Narrows southward to Rochon Lake where it intersects with the existing winter road from Garden Hill to Red Sucker Lake. The new connection provides an alternate route to Red Sucker Lake in the event that the winter road south through Bloodvein and Island Lake cannot be constructed due to weather conditions.
- Hydro Projects: The cooperative environmental review process under the *Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Co-operation* continued with respect to the proposed Wuskwatim projects. Clean Environment Commission hearings commenced on March 1, 2004. Branch staff participated. Discussions with Manitoba Hydro continued concerning the proposed Gull Rapids and Conawapa Generating Station projects, and the new Bipole Transmission Line project down the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.
- Flood Protection Works: An Environment Act Proposal was filed for the expansion of the Red River Floodway. A cooperative environmental assessment process was initiated with federal agencies pursuant to the *Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Co-operation*. A public and technical review of the Proposal was completed, and guidelines for the preparation of an environmental impact statement were issued to the Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority. Continued participation on Federal/Provincial Committees and Working Groups on planning and regulation of irrigation development.
- St. Leon Wind Energy Project: Following the environmental review process, an Environment Act Licence was issued to the St. Leon Wind Energy Limited Partnership, for the construction and operation of a 99 megawatt wind farm, near St. Leon, Manitoba – within the R.M.s of Lorne and Pembina. One appeal to the Licence was received, and subsequently dismissed by the Minister. This will be the first wind farm in Manitoba.
- Manitoba Model Forest: Involvement continued, with staff on Board of Directors. Staff was actively involved in attending meetings of Directors and Advisory Groups, and participating and assisting with planning of meetings, research workshops and conferences. Liaison and project planning activities continued with the twinned Monarch Butterfly Model Forest in Mexico. Staff participated in a joint exchange with State of Jalisco (Mexico) Conservation officials with respect to the Province of Manitoba/Government of State of Jalisco MOU concerning Manitoba Conservation assistance in the planning and development of a Model Forest in the State of Jalisco, Mexico.
- Pesticide Use Permits: Review and approval of applications for pesticide use continued. Government departments and municipalities require a Pesticide Use Permit annually.
- Crop Protection Warehouses/Fertilizer Developments: Review of applications to upgrade agricultural chemical storage facilities to meet industry standards continued. All facilities are required to meet stringent requirements in order to receive chemical products.

- Pesticide Regulations: Health Canada continued with their *Action Plan for Urban Use Pesticides*, developed in partnership with provincial and territorial governments. A main objective is reducing pesticide use on lawns by applying Integrated Pest Management principles emphasising prevention, reduced-risk products, and pesticide application only when necessary. Pesticide Classification Implementation Working Group produced *A Proposal For A National Pesticide Classification System For Canada* to harmonize federal and provincial classification systems. Consultation with interested stakeholders was completed. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency has made a commitment to begin the harmonized implementation of the new system.
- West Nile Virus: Continued cooperation with federal, provincial and territorial ministries, and Manitoba Health with a comprehensive, co-ordinated, and pro-active *Risk Management Plan* to respond to West Nile Virus.

Table EA.2
Suspensions or Variations under *The Environment Act*, 2003-2004

Section 18(2) of ***The Environment Act*** states:
"A suspension or variation granted pursuant to subsection (1) shall be recorded in the public registry and in the department's annual report."

The following suspension requests were approved by the Department of Conservation during the 2003/2004 fiscal year:

Date	Location	Purpose
May 09/03	Town of Plum Coulee Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence #2575
May 27/03	Frontier School Division Brochet Sewage Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence #456
Sept. 02/03	Granny's Poultry Co-operative (Manitoba) Ltd. - Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence #2583
Sept. 09/03	Lord Selkirk School Division Lockport Jr. High School	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence #1150
Sept. 10/03	Tembec – Pine Falls	Disposal of de-watered sludge Environment Act Licence #1876S2ER
Oct. 20/03	Eden Holding Co. Ltd. Clearview Colony Wastewater Facility	Clause 11(d) Environment Act Licence #1997
Oct. 22/03	R.M. of Woodlands – Lagoon	Clause 2 (b) & (c) Environment Act Licence #1563
Oct. 30/03	Providence College & Seminary Providence College Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence #1081VCO
Nov. 03/03	Town of Niverville Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence #737
Nov. 05/03	R.M. of Brokenhead Tyndall Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence #941
Nov. 06/03	Town of Lac du Bonnet Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence #1826
Nov. 13/03	Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park Sewage Treatment Plant	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence #890R
Dec. 19/03	Manitoba Hydro – Brandon Combustion Turbines	NOx Clauses – Extra. Circumstances Environment Act Licence #2497R
Dec. 31/03	Manitoba Hydro – Brandon Combustion Turbines	NOx Clauses – Extra. Circumstances Environment Act Licence #2497R
Jan. 15/04	Manitoba Hydro – Brandon Combustion Turbines	NOx Clauses – Extra. Circumstances Environment Act Licence #2497R
Jan. 28/04	Manitoba Hydro – Brandon Combustion Turbines	NOx Clauses – Extra. Circumstances Environment Act Licence #2497R

Feb. 09/04	Manitoba Hydro – Brandon Combustion Turbines	NOx Clauses – Extra. Circumstances Environment Act Licence #2497R
Feb. 25/04	Manitoba Hydro – Brandon Combustion Turbines	NOx Clauses – Extra Circumstances Environment Act Licence #2497R
Mar. 18/04	Tembec Paper Group Pine Falls Wastewater Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence #638

Table EA.3

12.5(c) Environmental Assessment and Licensing

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	**Actual 2003/04**	**Estimate 2003/04**		**Variance Over/(Under)**	**Expl. No.**
	$	**FTE**	**$**		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	912.3	15.00	972.0	(59.7)	
Other Expenditures	194.1		152.2	41.9	

Aboriginal Relations

The Branch was established to support and enhance a positive relationship with Aboriginal people of Manitoba. It is important that this level of commitment be recognized to meet the ever-increasing requirements of the Aboriginal community, non-Aboriginal community, and Manitoba Conservation.

In providing direction for the Department, the Branch participates in strategic planning processes, such as development of policies, legislation, and programs to ensure that Aboriginal and Treaty rights are taken into consideration. The Branch is accountable for the research, analysis, development, implementation and evaluation of new and existing resource programs. The Branch is also engaged in development of integrated resource policies, legislation relating to land use, co-management, resource allocation, environmental impacts, sustainable development initiatives, and enforcement. The Branch also facilitates communication between the various user interests and the Department.

The Branch continued to chair an interdepartmental committee that continues to develop the elements of policy and policy directives on consultation with First Nation people. A discussion paper entitled *Towards Better Relations with First Nations: Manitoba Conservation* is serving as the background for the development of the policy. This discussion paper provides general information and direction provided by Court decisions that requires the Department to undertake meaningful consultations with First Nation people on Treaty and Aboriginal rights when an action of the Department is likely to interfere with a Treaty and/or Aboriginal right to fish, hunt and/or trap. The discussion paper has been forwarded to the Aboriginal Issues Committee of Cabinet for approval and direction. It is anticipated that First Nations will play an integral role in developing policy pertaining to this policy and procedure directives.

The Branch was involved in all aspects of natural resource management, including program and policy review and development. It has also taken a role in facilitating dialogue between the Aboriginal community and the Department. In the long term, dialogue between all users and Aboriginal involvement in decision-making will lead to improved management of natural resources.

General Activities

- Provided input from an Aboriginal perspective through review of natural resource management programs, proposed programs, and in developing resource policy and legislation.
- Met with Aboriginal community to identify respective concerns and issues, and assisted in developing action plans to resolve Aboriginal community issues.
- Provided direction for the Department and Aboriginal community in natural resource management programs and issues.
- Participated in discussions and negotiations to develop formal agreements for managing natural resources.
- Provided educational information through varied media to the Department, Aboriginal, and non-Aboriginal communities.
- Attended meetings and gatherings in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and with users of natural resources.
- Responded to inquiries from the Department, resource users, public, and educational institutions.

Specific Activities

- Participated in implementation of Department's obligation to undertake meaningful consultation with those people whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights may be impacted by the proposed Wuskwatim Generation Station and Transmission Line Projects. ARB participated as members of the Wuskwatim Steering Committee and the Wuskwatim Consultation Team.
- Served as Program Coordinator for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Initiative and as Co-Chair for the East Side First Nation Council.
- Continued to facilitate meetings and dialogue between licensed resource users and Aboriginal resource users.
- Continued to develop processes for including First Nations people in development of a draft *Policy and Policy Directives on Consultation with First Nation People*.
- Continued to participate in development of co-management agreements with the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Manitoba Métis Federation and the West Region Tribal Council.
- Reviewed and commented on Crown land sale lists.
- Continued to advance the need for a policy review to recognize the interests of First Nations people in the use and disposition (sale and lease) of Crown land.

- In consultation with Elders (Cree, Dakota and Ojibway), continued to refine the existing policy for Disposition of Dead Wild Animals to recognize the importance of wildlife including birds of prey and their disposition for traditional purposes by First Nations people.
- Completed the Aboriginal Relations Branch webpage for Manitoba Conservation website.
- Completed a joint video production with First Nation hunter's and the Manitoba Wildlife Federation entitle A *Hunter and Firearm Safety* education video.
- Developed a branch trade show display booth that will be used at Aboriginal community events, gathering and conferences.
- Prepared a draft brochure of the webpage pertaining to *Fishing, Hunting and Trapping: The Rights and Responsibilities of First Nation Peoples.*
- Prepared the first draft of a User Manual: *Access to Natural Resources by First Nation Peoples,* to be available for distribution.
- Prepared draft outline of a formal process through establishing a council to create and maintain dialogue and communication between the Department and First Nations within Manitoba.

Aboriginal Resource Council

As a result of the recommendations made by the Aboriginal Resource Council and new initiatives undertaken by the Department, the mandate of this Council is undergoing an evaluation. It is anticipated the council may evolve to include membership from leadership of Aboriginal political organizations.

Table AR.1

12.5(d) Aboriginal Relations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	197.5	3.00	211.5	(14.0)	
Other Expenditures	49.0		54.2	(5.2)	

Clean Environment Commission

Under ***The Environment Act***, The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) provides a mechanism through which the public can participate in environmental decision making. The Commission conducts public reviews and hearings into matters of environmental concern and provides advice and recommendations to the Minister. The Commission, while reporting directly to the Minister, is independent of the Department.

The Commission issues its own Annual Report with information on its mandate and operations. Copies can be obtained from the CEC at 305 – 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8. The CEC can be contacted at 204-956-7091 or toll free at 1-800-597-3556 or by fax at 204-945-0090. The CEC's web site is www.cecmanitoba.ca.

Table CE.1

12.6 Clean Environment Commission

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	347.8	3.00	374.8	(27.0)	
Other Expenditures	321.5		248.0	73.5	

International Institute for Sustainable Development

The Institute promotes the concept of environmentally sustainable economic development and the integration of the principles and practices of sustainable development within and between the public, private and voluntary sectors on a national and international basis.

The Institute issues a separate Annual Report. Copies can be obtained from the Institute at 161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0Y4. The Institute can be contacted at 204-958-7700.

Table IISD.1

12.7 International Institute for Sustainable Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
Total Other Expenditures	1,104.4		1,145.9	(41.5)	

Infrastructure and Minor Capital Projects

Equipment

Departmental programs were supported by purchasing equipment and paying for minor infrastructure. Funding was allocated for computer hardware, office renovations, and groundwater investigation equipment.

Table IM.1
12.8(a) Equipment

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Other Expenditures	313.2		460.6	(147.4)	

Park Facilities

Minor campground expansion, electrification and redevelopment of rest room facilities were carried out in Spruce Woods Provincial Park. Water system upgrades were started at Paint Lake, Duck Mountain, Spruce Woods and Asessippi Provincial parks. An emergency well was drilled at West Hawk Lake and the water distribution system was replaced. Environmental evaluations were completed of lagoons in Birds Hill Provincial Park, and at West Hawk and Big Whiteshell lakes in Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Table IM.2
12.8(c) Park Facilities

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04 $	Estimate 2003/04 FTE	Estimate 2003/04 $	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Other Expenditures	3,108.1		4,564.3	(1,456.2)	1 & 2

1. $1,000.0 lapsed for the Falcon Lake Water Treatment Plant - Part B Infrastructure.
2. $600.0 Expenditure management Lapse

Amortization of Capital Assets

The Department expended the annual amortization costs of all completed assets based on the useful life of each asset. Assets purchased or constructed in 2003-04 were expended at one-half the annual amortization rate. The amortization expense also included the portion of corporate information technology projects attributable to the Department.

Table ACA.1

12.9 Amortization and Other Costs related to Capital Assets

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Estimate 2003/04		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$	FTE	$		
(a) Desktop Services					
(1) Amortization Expense - Hardware and Transition	232.3		232.4	(0.1)	
(2) Amortization Expense - Enterprise Software	0.0		0.0	0.0	
(3) Enterprise Software Licenses	232.4		232.4	0.0	
(b) Amortization Expense	1,220.2		1,292.4	(72.2)	
(c) Interest Expense	369.5		397.2	(27.7)	

Revenue and Expenditure Summaries

Table RE.1
Reconciliation Statement

DETAILS	2003-04 ESTIMATES
Printed Estimates of Expenditure 2003/04	**$128,049.3**
Transfer of functions to:	
- **Aboriginal Northern Affairs**	**(106.9)**
- **Water Stewardship**	**(26,383.2)**
Allocation of Funds from:	
- **Finance re: Public Debt**	**2,022.3**
- **Enabling Appropriations: 2003/04 General Salary Increase**	**1,830.5**
Allocation of Funds to:	
- **Energy, Science, and Technology**	**(116.2)**
Restatement of Infrastructure Expenditures:	
- **Less: To Part B - Capital Investment**	**(583.1)**
- **Add: Amortization of Infrastructure**	**1,879.4**
2003-04 ESTIMATE	**$106,592.1**

Table RE.2
Revenue Summary By Source

For the year ended March 31, 2004 with comparative figures for the previous year

Actual 2002-03	Actual 2003-04	Increase (Decrease)	Source	Actual 2003-04	Estimate 2003-04	Variance	Expl. No.
			OTHER REVENUE:				
220.4	390.6	170.2	(a) Environment Fees and Sundry	390.6	497.6	(107.0)	1
7,579.6	6,428.1	(1,151.5)	(b) Forestry Fees and Sundry	6,428.1	6,821.1	(393.0)	2
2,011.7	1,820.0	(191.7)	(c) Land Information Sales and Fees	1,820.0	2,110.9	(290.9)	3
5,733.8	5,739.4	5.6	(d) Licence Sales by Vendors	5,739.4	5,727.2	12.2	
9,793.5	10,210.9	417.4	(e) Parks Fees	10,210.9	9,401.4	809.5	4
4,317.5	4,509.4	191.9	(f) Regional Operations Fees and Cost Recovery	4,509.4	908.3	3,601.1	5
47.9	54.1	6.2	(g) Wildlife Sundry	54.1	39.0	15.1	6
396.9	299.0	(97.9)	(h) Sundry	299.0	303.3	(4.3)	
30,101.3	29,451.5	(649.8)	**Subtotal**	29,451.5	25,808.8	3,642.7	

Actual		Increase		Actual	Estimate	Variance	Exp
2002-03	2003-04	(Decrease)	Source	2003-04	2003-04		No
			GOVERNMENT OF CANADA:				
151.0	151.0	-	(a) Migratory Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Agreement	151.0	151.0	-	
151.0	151.0	-	**Subtotal**	151.0	151.0	-	
30,252.3	**29,602.5**	**(649.8)**	**Total**	**29,602.5**	**25,959.8**	**3,642.7**	
23.3	1.3	(22.0)	Sale of Government Assets	1.3	50.0	(48.7)	

Explanation Number:

1. Revenue was lower due to a delay in implementation of the Wastewater Certification Program.

2. Revenue was lower due to a continuation of poor market conditions, chipper wood and salvage and tamarac rate reductions.

3. Land administration fees and land sales were lower due to Departmental process reviews and reduced map sales were lower due to an increase in the number of map products available digitally.

4. Increased revenue from camping fees and park vehicle entrance permits was due to good camping weather conditions in July and August and the sale of cottage lots.

5. Recoveries for fire suppression activities were higher due to an increase in the number of forest fires.

6. Increase in revenue is due to the increased harvest of marten, coyote, and otter.

Table RE.3
Expenditure Summary

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2004 with comparative figures for the previous year.

Estimate 2003/04	Appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Actual 2002/03	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
	12-1 Administration and Finance				
29.0	(a) Minister's Salary	28.9	28.3	.6	
	(b) Executive Support				
376.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	389.4	384.3	5.1	
93.2	Other Expenditures	211.8	79.2	132.6	1
	(c) Corporate Services				
785.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	758.3	714.3	44.0	
704.6	Other Expenditures	827.9	654.7	173.2	2
	(d) Financial Services				
1,391.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,461.3	1,354.9	106.4	
392.1	Other Expenditures	357.3	359.1	(1.8)	
	(e) Human Resource Services				
1,051.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,054.6	980.4	74.2	
127.0	Other Expenditures	133.4	117.9	15.5	
	(f) Information Technology Services				
1,025.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,078.7	1,008.4	70.3	
115.8	Other Expenditures	100.6	186.8	(86.2)	
6,092.1	Total 12-1	6,402.2	5,868.3	533.9	
	12-2 Conservation Support Services				
	(a) Computer Graphics				
551.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	518.4	485.0	33.4	
37.7	Other Expenditures	34.5	36.8	(2.3)	
	(b) Survey Services				
1,545.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,395.6	1,322.6	73.0	
456.9	Other Expenditures	495.6	450.0	45.6	
(1,570.7)	Less: Recoveries from other appropriations	(1,449.0)	(1,540.2)	91.2	
	(c) Distribution Centre				
358.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	365.2	360.9	4.3	
309.7	Other Expenditures	335.7	310.6	25.1	
(50.0)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	(64.6)	(64.2)	(.4)	
1,639.2	Total 12-2	1,631.4	1,361.5	269.9	
	12-3 Regional Operations				
	(a) Headquarters Operations				
2,739.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,504.1	2,616.4	(112.3)	
912.9	Other Expenditures	1,382.3	2,077.7	(695.4)	3
365.6	Problem Wildlife Control	281.2	248.0	33.2	
	(b) Northwest Region				
2,125.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,149.7	2,065.7	84.0	
748.6	Other Expenditures	743.8	741.4	2.4	
	(c) Northeast Region				
2,468.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,285.7	2,172.2	113.5	
948.6	Other Expenditures	944.0	942.1	1.9	
	(d) Interlake Region				
3,106.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,131.7	3,075.2	56.5	
1,205.8	Other Expenditures	1,127.1	1,146.3	(19.2)	

Estimate 2003/04	Appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Actual 2002/03	Increase (Decrease)	Explanatio Number
	(e) Eastern Region				
3,288.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,149.6	3,122.8	26.8	
905.6	Other Expenditures	896.9	903.7	(6.8)	
	(f) Western Region				
4,441.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,484.5	4,386.7	97.8	
1,551.0	Other Expenditures	1,533.6	1,562.1	(28.5)	
	(g) Red River Region				
3,471.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,139.5	3,055.6	83.9	
811.9	Other Expenditures	969.9	837.8	132.1	
	(h) Fire Program				
5,044.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,225.4	4,760.8	464.6	
8,064.6	Other Expenditures	7,798.0	7,582.3	215.7	
	(j) Office of Drinking Water				
38.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	34.1	36.6	(2.5)	
42,238.8	Total 12-3	41,781.1	41,333.4	447.7	
	12-4 Conservation Programs				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
157.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	153.2	145.4	7.8	
177.9	Other Expenditures	172.9	214.0	(41.1)	
335.1	Total 12-4A	326.1	359.4	(33.3)	
	(b) Water Management - Administration				
210.1	Other Expenditures	0	220.0	(220.0)	
210.1	Total 12-4B		220.0	(220.0)	
	(c) Parks and Natural Areas				
	(1) Administration				
331.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	351.1	393.2	(42.1)	
305.8	Other Expenditures	372.3	348.8	23.5	
191.2	Grant Assistance	191.2	191.2	0.0	
	(2) Planning and Development				
807.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	835.2	780.1	55.1	
163.0	Other Expenditures	144.6	152.2	(7.6)	
	(3) Park Districts				
406.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	356.4	422.4	(66.0)	
48.4	Other Expenditures	34.9	46.8	(11.9)	
	(4) Park Operations and Maintenance				
11,068.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	11,326.0	10,778.4	547.6	
4,755.7	Other Expenditures	4,394.5	4,315.7	78.8	
	(5) Support Services				
446.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	486.0	414.2	71.8	
244.9	Other Expenditures	241.8	241.5	.3	
18,769.5	Total 12-4C	18,734.0	18,084.5	649.5	
	(d) Air Quality Management				
242.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	273.8	271.4	2.4	
73.4	Other Expenditures	69.4	93.5	(24.1)	
2.8	Grant Assistance	1.6	2.2	(0.6)	
318.8	Total 12-4D	344.8	367.1	(22.3)	

Estimate 2003/04	Appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Actual 2002/03	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
	(e) Forestry				
	(1) Administration				
368.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	395.9	354.0	41.9	
578.5	Other Expenditures	401.8	377.2	24.6	
353.4	Grant Assistance	353.4	153.4	200.0	4
	(2) Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis				
894.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,147.2	842.5	304.7	
812.1	Other Expenditures	696.3	693.9	2.4	
	(3) Forest Health and Renewal				
1,662.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,298.2	2,363.1	(64.9)	
3,641.0	Other Expenditures	2,819.3	2,848.7	(29.4)	
(1,292.0)	Less: Recoverable from Urban and Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(1,248.0)	(1,308.7)	60.7	
	(4) Forest Management and Development				
802.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	473.6	556.8	(83.2)	
64.9	Other Expenditures	64.0	57.1	6.9	
1,411.9	(5) Forest Regeneration Stock	1,553.9	1,580.3	(26.4)	
9,298.1	Total 12-4E	8,955.6	8,518.3	437.3	
	(g) Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection				
	(1) Administration				
545.9	Salaries and Employee Benefits	593.3	549.0	44.3	
389.0	Other Expenditures	385.6	386.4	(.8)	
207.0	Grant Assistance	207.0	207.0	0.0	
	(2) Game, Fur, and Problem Wildlife Management				
632.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	715.3	658.6	56.7	
262.9	Other Expenditures	251.8	288.6	(36.8)	
89.9	Grant Assistance	89.9	89.9	0.0	
	(3) Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring				
777.9	Salaries and Employee Benefits	737.9	699.0	38.9	
97.5	Other Expenditures	92.1	89.2	2.9	
645.0	Grant Assistance	645.0	465.0	180.0	5
	(4) Biodiversity Conservation				
301.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	297.5	254.7	42.8	
80.0	Other Expenditures	78.7	66.7	12.0	
350.4	(5) Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement	329.4	342.0	(12.6)	
225.0	(6) Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative	208.2	274.3	(66.1)	
4,603.8	Total 12-4G	4,631.7	4,370.4	261.3	
432.1	(h) Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund	179.7	315.3	(135.6)	6
432.1	Total 12-4H	179.7	315.3	(135.6)	
	(j) Pollution Prevention				
610.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	629.7	568.1	61.6	
413.8	Other Expenditures	725.6	387.5	338.1	7
1,024.5	Total 12-4J	1,355.3	955.6	399.7	

Estimate 2003/04	Appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Actual 2002/03	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
	(k) Lands				
	(1) Crown Lands Operations				
823.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	744.1	726.5	17.6	
1,268.5	Other Expenditures	1,520.0	1,305.2	214.8	
	(2) Crown Lands Registry				
244.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	199.3	182.7	16.6	
156.0	Other Expenditures	150.0	149.0	1.0	
	(3) Remote Sensing				
560.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	553.1	566.0	(12.9)	
237.2	Other Expenditures	240.9	244.8	(3.9)	
(23.7)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	0.0	(1.5)	1.5	
	(4) Land Mapping Services				
528.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	566.8	527.9	38.9	
72.8	Other Expenditures	73.0	72.7	.3	
3,867.7	Total 12-4K	4,047.2	3,773.7	273.9	
50.0	(m) Habitat Enhancement Fund	50.0	50.0	0.0	
38,909.7	Total 12-4	38,624.4	37,013.9	1,610.5	
	12-5 Environmental Stewardship				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
159.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	152.8	147.7	5.1	
202.7	Other Expenditures	54.3	46.7	7.6	
400.0	Northern Initiatives	35.4	25.0	10.4	
122.5	Grant Assistance	122.7	110.9	11.8	
	(b) Sustainable Resource Management				
1,068.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	963.4	913.4	50.0	
824.2	Other Expenditures	1,208.8	800.7	408.1	8
10.2	Grants Assistance	10.2	20.2	(10.0)	
	(c) Environmental Assessment and Licensing				
972.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	912.3	873.7	38.6	
152.2	Other Expenditures	194.1	158.4	35.7	
	(d) Aboriginal Relations				
211.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	197.5	186.0	11.5	
54.2	Other Expenditures	49.0	53.5	(4.5)	
4,177.1	Total 12-5	3,900.5	3,336.2	564.3	
	12-6 Clean Environment Commission				
374.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	347.8	270.0	77.8	9
248.0	Other Expenditures	321.5	244.4	77.1	10
622.8	Total 12-6	669.3	514.4	154.9	
1,145.9	**12-7 International Institute for Sustainable Development**	1,104.4	1,034.9	69.5	
	Total 12-7				

Estimate 2003/04	Appropriation	Actual 2003/04	Actual 2002/03	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
	12-8 Infrastructure and Minor Capital Projects				
460.6	(a) Equipment	313.2	350.0	(36.8)	
120.0	(b) Critical Heritage Marshes	39.7	119.7	(80.0)	
4,564.3	(c) Park Facilities	3,108.1	3,639.6	(531.5)	11
5,144.9	Total 12-8	3,461.0	4,109.3	(648.3)	
	12-9 Amortization and Other Costs Related to Capital Assets				
	(a) Desktop Services				
232.4	(1) Amortization Expense - Hardware and Transition	232.3	652.9	(420.6)	
0.0	(2) Amortization Expense - Enterprise Software	0.0	114.7	(114.7)	
232.4	(3) Enterprise Software Licenses	232.4	232.4	0.0	
1,292.4	(b) Amortization Expense	1,220.2	1,220.6	(0.4)	
397.2	(c) Interest Expense	369.5	373.9	(4.4)	
2,154.4	Total 12-9	2,054.4	2,594.5	(540.1)	
102,124.9	**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**	**99,628.7**	**97,166.4**	**2,462.3**	
700.0	**B.2 Capital Investment - Conservation**	519.7	635.9	(116.2)	

Expenditure Summary Explanations

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2004 with comparative figures for the previous year

1. Increase in Executive Support other expenditures is related to the additional support costs associated with the reorganization of the Department.
2. Increase in Corporate Services other expenditures is mainly due to increased insurance premiums.
3. In 2002/03 a future expenditure provision in the amount of $649.9 was made to fund potential future costs related to various environmental issues (asbestos removal, landfill site closure, PCB materials removal, aquifer contamination, etc.) at the former Manfor Site, The Pas. This provision "topped up" the funding required to meet all estimated remaining environmental re-mediation costs. The Province, as part of the sale of this facility to then Repap Manitoba (now Tolko), assumed financial responsibility for all costs related to the remediation of the indicated environmental issues at that site. Total estimated costs are expected to be approximately $12.0 million (of which $10.0 million has already been expended.)
4. Increase is due to the Northern Forest Diversification grant ($200.0) approved in the 2003/04 Estimates.
5. Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation core funding was lapsed in 2002/03 due to in year management expenditure reduction.
6. In 2003/04 funding was lapsed to offset over expenditures in other areas..
7. Increase in Pollution Prevention other expenditures is due to the realignment of Household Hazardous Waste costs in 2003/04.
8. Increase in Sustainable Rescurce other expenditures is due to Co-Management Agreement funding costs and increased civil legal costs and Hak contract re: Hecla.
9. Increase in Clean Environment Commission salaries and employee benefits is due to severance pay due to employee retirement.
10. Increase in Clean Environment Commission other expenditures is due to the increase in the number of hearings conducted in 2003/04.
11. The 2003/04 decrease in Parks Facilities minor capital projects is mainly due to the lapse of $500.0 project funding to partially offset the over expenditure in Water Stewardship water projects.

Table RE.4

Five Year Expenditure and Staffing Summary by Appropriation

For year ending March 31, 1999 – March 31, 2004

	1999/2000		2000/2001		2001/2002		2002/2003		2003/2004	
	FTEs	$(000's)	FTEs	$(000's)	FTEs	$(000's)	FTEs	$(000's)	FTEs	$(000's)
Administration and Finance	99.83	6,221.6	90.83	5,509.4	84.83	5,756.5	84.83	5,868.3	88.33	6,413.0
Conservation Support Services	52.00	1,561.4	56.00	1,289.6	51.00	1,358.4	50.00	1,361.5	48.00	1,631.4
Regional Operations	440.96	36,441.3	436.86	39,360.7	479.86	41,082.86	498.86	41,333.4	486.86	41,781.1
Conservation Programs	497.38	40,330.5	489.85	39,182.7	431.90	37,536.3	425.65	37,013.9	418.65	38,624.4
Environmental Stewardship	40.50	2,978.4	38.50	2,937.3	40.00	3,368.1	37.00	3,336.2	37.00	3,900.5
Clean Environment Commission	3.00	285.0	3.00	472.3	3.00	587.2	3.00	514.4	3.00	669.3
International Institute for Sustainable Development		1,145.8		1,145.9		1,060.0		1,034.9		1,104.4
Infrastructure and Minor Capital Projects		4,969.6		4,683.3		4,124.8		4,109.3		3,461.0
Amortization and Other Costs Related to Capital Assets		2,059.3		2,292.5		2,774.8		2,594.5		2,054.4
Total Appropriations	**1,133.67**	**95,719.9**	**1,115.04**	**96,873.7**	**1,090.59**	**97,648.2**	**1,099.34**	**97,166.4**	**1,081.84**	**99,639.5**

*Adjusted figures reflect historical date on a comparable basis in those appropriations affected by re-organization, during the years under review.

Publications

Corporate Services

Manitoba Conservation: Career Guide

Operations

Manitoba firearm accidents report : hunting and non-hunting

Forestry

Forintek Canada Corporation - Helping Manitoba's Forest Products Industry Add Value and Increase Productivity

Geographic Names

Holm, G., Buchner, A., eds. **A Place of Honour: Manitoba's War Dead Commemorated in Its Geography**. (also available in French)

Parks and Natural Areas

Beach safety (bilingual)
Beach safety for groups (bilingual)
Birds Hill, Cedar Bog self-guiding trail
Birds Hill, Nimowin self-guiding trail
Birds Hill, Pine Ridge self-guiding trail
Camp Morton Provincial Park interpretive map
The camper's guide (English and French versions)
Canadian Heritage Rivers System - Towards a management plan for the Hayes River - Workshop materials - May 2003
Chitek Lake Park Reserve – Phase 1 public consultation brochure
Clearwater Lake Provincial Park interpretive map
Duck Mountain Provincial Park - Draft management plan
Fall camping in Manitoba
Family vacation cabins (bilingual)
Group use areas (bilingual)
Hecla/Grindstone, Grassy Narrows Marsh
Hecla/Grindstone, Hecla Village self-guiding trail
Junior naturalist and park explorer booklets
Manitoba 2004 Provincial Parks Guide
Parks Reservation Service
The petroforms of Manitoba
Pinawa Dam, Old Pinawa self-guiding trail
Regular/boundary changes for Provincial Parks – Summary information
River Road, Kennedy House
Spruce Woods, Spirit Sands self-guiding trail, Devils Punch Bowl hiking trail
Towards a management plan for the Hayes River - Summary of workshop comments
Turtle Mountain, Wildlife self-guiding trail
Volunteer Campground Host Program
Whiteshell, Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary

Sustainable Resource Management

Crown Land Classification Committee. Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans 2004

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

Black Bear Encounters, brochure
Black Bear Encounters, handout (summary of the brochure)
Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Management, brochure
Newman, K. Grassland Bird Monitoring at Manitoba Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Demonstration Project Sites
Manitoba 2003 Hunting Guide
Miller, A. Manitoba's 2003 Piping Plover Survey and Productivity Summary
Jones, G. & F. Phillips. Metal Concentrations in Surface Soils of Thompson, Manitoba, September 2001. Manitoba Conservation Report No. 03-01
Kowalchuk, M. Mixed-grass Prairie Inventory for Manitoba - update 2003
Foster, C., C. Hamel & E. Reimer. Occurrences of rare and uncommon calcareous wetland plants surveyed by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre in 2003. MS04-02
Hamel, C., C. Foster & E. Reimer. Rare Plant Surveys & Stewardship in the Rural Municipality of Stuartburn, including new and updated occurrences resulting from surveys conducted in 2003 by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre. MS04-01
Trapping Guide 2003/04

Legislation

The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act, C205
The Crown Lands Act, C340
  [except sections 7.2(2) to 7.6 and sections 6, 7, 10, 12(1), 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23 and 24 to 28 both inclusive, insofar as they relate to the administration of Crown Lands which may be designated by the Minister of Conservation as agricultural Crown Lands, and the Agricultural Crown Lands Grazing and Hay Permits Regulation (Manitoba Regulation 288/88) and Agricultural Crown Land Leases Regulation (Manitoba Regulation 168/2001)]
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act, D12
The Dutch Elm Disease Act, D107
The Ecological Reserves Act, E5
The Endangered Species Act, E111
The Environment Act, E125
The Forest Act, F150
The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation Act, H15
The International Peace Garden Act, I70
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act, N30
  [except as it relates to water and fisheries]
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, N60
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, 1963, N70
The Ozone Depleting Substances Act, O80
The Provincial Parks Act, P20
The Plants Pests and Diseases Act, P90
  [that portion of clause 16(c) that pertains to arborists and clause 16(i)]
The Polar Bear Protection Act, P94
The Property Tax and Insulation Assistance Act, P143
  [Part V, and section 1 and Part VI as they relate to subjects covered under Part V]
The High-Level Radioactive Waste Act, R10
The Resource Tourism Operators Act, R 119.5
The Surveys Act, S240
  [Part II]
The Sustainable Development Act, S270
  [except the Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund of the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund]
The Tourism and Recreation Act, T100
  [that portion of clauses 4(c) and (d), sections 5 and 6 and clauses 8(1)(a), (d), (f) and (g) that pertain to the licensing and operation of outfitters, hunting or fishing lodges and their out-camps; repealed March 1, 2004 by ***The Resource Tourism Operators Act***]
The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act, W40
The Wildfires Act, W128
The Wildlife Act, W130
  [except that portion of clause 89(e) that applies to compensation for damage to crops caused by wildlife as it pertains to big game and migratory waterfowl]
The Wild Rice Act, W140

As per Schedule "D", Order-in-Council 395/2003